

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2020 / ML 2019 Request for Funding

Date: May 31, 2018

**Program or Project Title:** Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase VIII

**Funds Requested:** \$13,500,000



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**County Locations:** Big Stone, Cottonwood, Fairbault, Jackson, Lyon, Martin, Meeker, Murray, Pope, and Redwood.

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Prairie

## Abstract:

This Phase 8 request funds Ducks Unlimited's prairie land acquisition and restoration program. DU will acquire and restore 1,500 acres of land containing drained wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota for restoration and transfer to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state WMA system. This land acquisition and restoration program focuses on restoring cropland along shallow lakes and adjoining WMAs containing wetlands to help restore prairie wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks and other wildlife. DNR will help seed uplands, and DU engineers will survey, design, and hire private sector contractors to restore wetlands.

## Design and scope of work:

This is Phase 8 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing program to both Acquire and Restore wetlands and prairie on land for sale adjacent to existing Minnesota DNRs State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). DU works with willing seller private landowners adjacent to WMAs that have drained wetlands and converted prairie uplands, and land on shallow lakes in need of protection. DU purchases and holds land title through its Wetlands America Trust (WAT), DU's supporting land-holding fiduciary organization, of which DU is the sole corporate member.

Our goal is to help create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes and complement other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie. Our work addresses the habitat goals in Minnesota's Long-range Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This work is time-sensitive because farmland adjacent to state WMAs is rarely offered for sale for conservation, and tracts are only available for a short time. DU works quickly, and has already spent most ML2016 and ML2017 OHF funds appropriated.

DU works in close partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife, and coordinates with Pheasants Forever, other NGO partners, and local sportsmen clubs such as Swan Lake Area Wildlife Association and Cottonwood County Game and Fish League. Although approval is not requested from county boards for DU land acquisitions, DU communicates frequently with county and township officials to ensure local public awareness of our conservation work, and routinely attends county board meetings to discuss

questions. The acquisitions and restorations proposed represents the amount of work DU can accomplish in three to five years, is scalable, and benefits game and non-game wildlife species alike - from mallards to monarch butterflies.

Because 90% of our prairie wetlands have been drained and 99% of our prairie uplands converted in Minnesota, acquisition and restoration of prairie and small wetlands is critical – especially for breeding waterfowl in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota where DU focuses our efforts. Furthermore, most remaining wetlands here are in poor ecological condition due to massive landscape prairie conversion to cropland and wetland drainage that degrades both wetland condition and habitat function for prairie wildlife.

Although many of our remaining prairie wetlands and shallow lakes are contained within state WMAs or federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), these small public land patches rarely provide optimal wildlife habitat due to their fragmented shape and small size. Similarly, most prairie shallow lakes are surrounded by a thin ribbon of uplands that fail to adequately buffer them from surrounding agricultural land runoff. Therefore, acquisition and restoration of drained wetlands and cultivated cropland in close proximity to our public lands will improve and buffer our public shallow lakes and remaining wetlands, and help create functioning prairie-wetland complexes of habitat for breeding ducks and other prairie wildlife.

DU professional engineers and biologists work closely with DNR field staff to plan and implement both robust prairie and wetland restorations, including diverse native forb/grass seed plantings and complex wetland restorations that often involve extensive tile drainage systems.

## Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

## Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

## Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Breeding ducks require prairie-wetland complexes containing at least 20% upland nesting cover and small wetlands. Restoring and protecting viable patches of prairie and small wetlands around existing shallow lakes to create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes is a goal of both Minnesota's Long Range Duck Recovery Plan and Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. Thus, it is imperative that prairie and wetlands be restored around existing public habitat patches to increase their patch size and connectivity, and ultimately their function to provide viable habitat complexes capable of producing prairie wildlife. Science indicates that breeding ducks require at least 20% or more of a four square-mile area be intact prairie grass with small wetlands for positive duck nesting success. Therefore, our goal will be to acquire and restore land to increase the habitat patch size of existing state WMAs to help them become functioning, viable landscapes for breeding ducks and other prairie wildlife.

## Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

### Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

## Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

This program will permanently protect and restore prairie and wetlands adjacent to existing state WMAs to increase their patch size and viability as habitat for wildlife, and lands acquired and restored will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for long-term management and public outdoor recreational use. The goal of this work is to create functioning prairie-wetland complexes for breeding and migrating waterfowl and other prairie wildlife species. It has taken over 100 years to fragment the prairie landscape, and it will take a long-term approach to restore wildlife habitat here, piece by piece and prairie wetland complex by complex. Therefore, our work will help add to the significant and permanent conservation legacy for the public, and in the long-term will result in improved and viable habitat patches and complexes for both wildlife and people alike.

## Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Ducks Unlimited uses science to strategically focus on lands adjacent to existing state WMAs with restorable wetlands that build prairie-wetland complexes for breeding ducks or buffer managed shallow lakes. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "Thunderstorm Map" and "Restorable Wetlands Inventory" help determine importance to breeding waterfowl. We prioritize lands with restorable wetlands and prairie near WMAs with relatively high biological diversity and significance based on the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS) to improve the ecological functionality of existing public WMAs for ducks. Examples include:

Westport WMA Tract 2 in Pope County is a 160-acre prairie-wetland complex adjacent to a MCBS native prairie site of moderate biodiversity significance. This complex supports over 50 breeding duck pairs per square mile. It is 0.5 miles from two DNR priority shallow lakes and in a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan habitat complex.

Indian Lake WMA Tract 6a is 30 acres adjacent to Indian Lake in Sibley County, a MNDNR Wildlife priority shallow lake with a high level of biological significance and WMA of moderate biodiversity significance.

Thoen Lake WMA tract 2b in Meeker County is 155 acres near Thoen Lake, both a wild rice and DNR priority shallow lake in a landscape estimated to support 20 breeding duck pairs per square mile.

Expandere WMA Tract 12 in Cottonwood County is 121 acres adjacent to 1,000 contiguous acres of wetland-grassland habitat, a significant MCBS Sites of Outstanding and High Biodiversity due to excellent quality native wet-prairie within its borders. It supports over 21 breeding duck pairs per square mile, falls within a Pheasant complex, and is 1 mile from a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Core Area.

Dovray WMA Tracts 19&19A in Murray County comprise 165 acres adjoining Dovray WMA and less than a quarter mile from Slaughter Slough WPA in Murray County. The complex supports over 41 breeding duck pairs per square mile and is adjacent to four priority shallow lakes as identified by the Minnesota DNR. It is within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Strategic Habitat Complex, and nearly surrounds a partially-drained shallow lake within Dovray WMA, thus making restoration feasible.

## **How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:**

This proposal protects and restores prairie lands, which are identified as critical habitats for many "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" listed in Minnesota's "Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife." Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring prairie (page 255) include seven species of butterflies and three bird species that are native prairie specialists: chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague's pipit, and Baird's sparrow. The Prairie Parkland has 139 species listed on the SGCN with 13 of these species being unique to the section.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN examples in the Action Plan, restored prairie in the Prairie Parkland will provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan too. Restored and protected prairie will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including bird species: upland sandpiper, bobolink, burrowing owl, le conte's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, swamp sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owl, northern harrier, dickcissel, Henslow's sparrow, and Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow. Upland nesting waterfowl will also benefit including waterfowl listed as SGCN; northern pintail and lesser scaup, which have both seen declines in continental populations. Wetland associated birds such as trumpeter swan, black tern, American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, and marbled godwit will benefit from wetlands either restored or buffered in the prairie landscape. Mammals such as northern grasshopper mouse and Richardson's ground squirrels, reptiles such as lined snake and Blanding's turtle, and amphibians such as northern cricket frog and common mudpuppy are listed as SGCN for the Prairie Parkland.

## **Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:**

Ducks Unlimited proposes to acquire and restore 300 acres of wetlands and 1,200 acres of prairie uplands adjacent to existing state WMAs to improve their function as prairie-wetland habitat complexes for waterfowl and many other prairie and wetland-dependent wildlife species. Science-based guidance provided by Minnesota DNR indicates that 300 acres of wetlands and 1,200 acres of prairie uplands may be estimated to:

Support approximately 122 pairs of mallards based on the biological model of the Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan that indicates one pair of mallards needs 2.47 acres of wetlands with adequate adjacent upland nesting habitat to support population growth;

Support at least 2 or more pairs of trumpeter swans assuming one pair for every 150 wetland acres, depending on the size, type, and number of wetland basins restored or enhanced;

Support up to 706 pairs of bobolinks and 571 pairs of grasshopper sparrows, based on guidance that breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres, respectively, in high quality habitat in Wisconsin;

Produce approximately 400 harvested rooster pheasants based on ratios of CRP acres to pheasant harvest in Minnesota; and,

Contribute 3,600 to 9,600 monarch butterflies to the overwintering population, assuming 100-250 stems of milkweed plants per prairie acre restored.

## Outcomes:

### Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *Land bordering shallow lakes and land containing drained wetlands will be acquired and restored back to functioning wetlands for waterfowl with native grass and forb wildflower grassland surrounding them as habitat for pollinators, migratory birds, and resident wildlife. Lands will transferred into the state Wildlife Management Area system to provide additional prairie habitat for migratory species and public use, both of which will be monitored by Minnesota DNR. Restored wetland basins will be monitored by DNR area wildlife field staff, and managed to optimize wetland habitat conditions. Prairie uplands will be managed to minimize trees and encourage native plants.*

### How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

All lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state's Wildlife Management Area system. Thus, Minnesota DNR Wildlife land managers will sustain and maintain the prairie and wetlands acquired and restored by Ducks Unlimited in perpetuity, and manage them to provide optimal wildlife habitat and for public use.

### Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2022	DNR G & F Fund, OHF	Mow restored prairie for weed control	Periodically burn native prairie every 5 years as needed	Assess and manage water levels in larger restored wetlands as vegetation and ecological conditions warrant action

### What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

Most wetlands and nearly all native prairie uplands have been drained and converted for agricultural use in southern Minnesota. Most prairie public wildlife lands are small and fragmented, and do not provide viable productive patches of functioning habitat for prairie wildlife. Thus, restoration of prairie lands for sale is a key component of our overall Minnesota Prairie Plan conservation efforts to restore and protect wildlife habitat. This work is time-sensitive because private land adjacent to state WMAs and within DNR-approved state WMA project boundaries only rarely becomes available for sale to conservation interests, and it thus it is important to be responsive to these land acquisition and restoration opportunities when they arise. Most private landowners will wait and work with conservation NGO land buyers for short time, but will not wait indefinitely for conservation funding, and a generation may pass before these key parcels become available for purchase again.

### How does this proposal include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

DU strives to use our non-federal expense to leverage federal NAWCA grant funds to further our conservation mission. However, NAWCA is highly competitive and complex, takes at least a year for funding approval, requires a firm match commitment, and proposal success is uncertain. Nonetheless, DU works closely with Minnesota DNR, and NGO partners to offer recent past state OHF acquisitions as non-federal match to leverage federal NAWCA funds to help fund OHF land restoration and also acquire additional lands too. For example, several recent past OHF acquisitions were recently pledged as match in NAWCA proposals likely to be funded later in 2018 or 2019 that will help pay for restoration costs on those lands acquired. Similarly, DU intends to partner with DNR and other NGOs to request federal NAWCA grant funds to restore lands acquired through this OHF appropriation too by using OHF expense as non-federal match.

### Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

### Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

**Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:**

This request is not supplanting or substituting previous DU funding. This request is for new land acquisition funding to supplement traditional DU conservation activities and allow DU to expand our conservation program to buy/restore land, and will not supplant or substitute traditional sources of funding for DU conservation work.

### Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2009	DU private	\$26,500
2010	DU private	\$10,000
2013	DU private	\$56,600
2015	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$150,000 (ongoing)
2016	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$200,000 (ongoing)
2017	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$200,000 (ongoing)
2018	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$200,000 (pending)

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition? - No

Discussions with local county and other government officials will be held in conjunction with acquiring lands, and timing of notification depends upon the situation. DU strives to notify and discuss land acquisition plans prior to land acquisition closings. Because land acquisition deals are very private and sensitive matters, disclosing details in advance of purchase agreements can jeopardize land deals with private landowners. Because requesting formal local approval involves elected officials voting on private land deals, which invites local politics and makes private landowner intentions public, DU does not seek local government approval of our land acquisitions but instead meets with county and township boards in person to inform and discuss pending plans to ensure local government awareness of the public benefits of our land acquisition and restoration work, and changes in future tax payments. DU pays taxes in full at the county assessed rate during our hold time, and because state PILT amounts have been higher than previous assessed county tax rates for land acquired by DU in the Prairie Section of SW Minnesota, county boards have been very pleased with DU land acquisitions for the Minnesota DNR.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection - No

Some tracts may contain a USFWS wetland easement protecting intact wetland basins, prohibiting drainage or filling but allowing farming when dry, so the value of these areas can be accommodated in the appraisal.

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - Yes

Are the funds confirmed - No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds - Beginning in July 2020 via future NAWCA grants leveraged to help restore lands acquired via OHF.

### Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - Yes

Explain

DU purchases land in Minnesota to protect and restore prairie, wetlands, and shallow lake shoreland for ducks and other prairie and wetland-dependent wildlife. Lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in state Wildlife

Management Areas (WMA) for long-term management and public use. Initial Development and Restoration Plans are developed in partnership with Minnesota DNR and area wildlife manager approval according to WMA management plan goals. The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage habitat for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife.

Lands proposed to be acquired for prairie restoration as WMAs may utilize limited farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is the standard prairie restoration practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. DU will work closely with DNR through our cooperative acquisition and restoration planning process to avoid purchasing tracts where DNR requires placement of food plots and instead defers those to DNR to acquire directly, as restoration of prairie and wetlands for waterfowl is our strategic focus and mission.

Most lands to be acquired and restored through this program will be farmland with cropped fields, which DU will restore to prairie and wetland habitat. Very limited short-duration row-cropping of soybeans or use of oats as a cover crop, or other farming activity may be required immediately after acquisition prior to restoration prior to native prairie grass and forb seeding to rid the soil of residual herbicides that limit native plant growth and excess nutrients that promote weeds. Increasingly, farmers are using herbicides with an 18-month carryover residual effect, that requires an additional year of farming with other compatible herbicides before native plants can be seeded. DU strives to minimize this circumstance by working with private landowners to guide their final year of cropping prior selling, but arranging such is not always possible and use of cover crops or an additional year of "safe" row cropping in soybeans is sometimes required. DU will strive to use non-GMO treated seed whenever and wherever possible if planting of crops is required.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **Yes**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

No variations anticipated. All lands to be acquired are in rural areas and will be included in state Wildlife Management Areas, and open to public use as per Minnesota DNR rules.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Appraise and acquire lands in fee-title.	June 2022
Restore lands acquired and transfer to Minnesota DNR.	June 2027

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$13,500,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$730,000	\$70,000	DU Private & NAWCA	\$800,000
Contracts	\$1,500,000	\$100,000	DU private and federal USFWS NAWCA	\$1,600,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$10,000,000	\$0		\$10,000,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$90,000	\$10,000	DU private and federal USFWS NAWCA	\$100,000
Professional Services	\$170,000	\$0		\$170,000
Direct Support Services	\$72,000	\$10,000	DU private and federal USFWS NAWCA	\$82,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$108,000	\$0		\$108,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Supplies/Materials	\$400,000	\$10,000	DU private and federal USFWS NAWCA	\$410,000
DNR IDP	\$400,000	\$0		\$400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,500,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>		<b>\$13,700,000</b>

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Manager - Grant Administration and Program Coordination	0.40	3.00	\$130,000	\$0		\$130,000
Biologists and Engineers - Acquire & Restore Land	2.00	3.00	\$600,000	\$70,000	DU Private & NAWCA	\$670,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>\$730,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>		<b>\$800,000</b>

Amount of Request: \$13,500,000  
 Amount of Leverage: \$200,000  
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 1.48%  
 DSS + Personnel: \$802,000  
 As a % of the total request: 5.94%  
 Easement Stewardship: \$0  
 As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

## How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 10% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

## Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

Yes, all of the budget requested for Contracts is for restoration (and to a much lesser extent enhancement) contractor charges to restore wetlands and prairie on lands acquired. Wetland restoration work is very expensive, especially in the southern portion of the Prairie Section where most wetlands are intensively drained by a complex network of underground private and legal/public tile and surface ditches that often affect neighboring lands too, and thus requires detailed professional survey and engineering design, and

often drain tile re-routing to maintain neighboring drainage. Also, sediment removal within drained/restorable wetlands is an important component to ensure full restoration and to limit invasive plant species invasion post-restoration. Finally, contract charges will also include invasive tree removal and contracted native prairie grass/forb seeding costs too.

**Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No**

**Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:**

None - DU travel costs consist of in-state mileage, food, and lodging only (primarily mileage and lodging for manager, biologists, and engineering field staff).

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

DU will work hard to leverage OHF grant funds with additional sources of private support from individuals, foundations, and corporations and via federal NAWCA grants for specific projects, especially by using OHF grant land acquisition expense to leverage federal grants to restore wetlands and prairie uplands on lands acquired.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes**

**Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:**

This project can be scaled approximately proportionally to funding recommended on a cost per acre basis for both land acquisition and restoration. Administrative costs can be reduced too if less funding is recommended than requested, albeit not proportionately due to base costs of program management, grant administration, and reporting.

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	300	1,200	0	0	1,500
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	300	1,200	0	0	1,500

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	15
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	15

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$2,700,000	\$10,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$13,500,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,700,000	\$10,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$13,500,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro /Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,500,000	\$0	\$13,500,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,500,000	\$0	\$13,500,000

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro /Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,000	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

0

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

# Parcel List

## Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Ducks Unlimited prioritizes purchase of prairie farmland with restorable wetlands adjacent to existing public lands, and land adjacent shallow lakes managed by DNR for inclusion in the Minnesota DNR's state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system. DU focuses on acquiring and restoring converted/cultivated prairie with drained wetlands adjacent to existing WMAs to enlarge existing WMAs to create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes that benefit ducks and other prairie wildlife. This work also complements other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie.

DU works in close partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife and coordinates with other national and state NGO partners including Pheasants Forever, The Conservation Fund, and The Nature Conservancy to periodically review parcels for sale that DNR desires for WMAs. DU selects priority prairie parcels in the southern region that are highly regionally ranked by DNR and that add a good mix of prairie and wetland restorations to existing WMAs.

DU strategically prioritizes tracts of land with restorable wetlands that DU wetland engineers can survey, design, and restore, especially those adjoining existing patches of prairie and wetland habitat that are not functioning as viable prairie-wetland complexes due to their small size and fragmented shape. DU also prioritizes land bordering shallow lakes managed by DNR in order to buffer those shallow, ecologically-sensitive wildlife lakes and help expand the prairie-wetland complex around them.

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

### Big Stone

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Lac Qui Parle WMA - Tract TB15	12044210	280	\$1,465,000	No	Full	Full

### Cottonwood

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Expandere WMA - Tract 12	10537206	121	\$960,000	No	Full	Full
Little Swan Lake WMA - Tract 14	10635218	17	\$125,000	No	Full	Full

### Fairbault

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Walnut Lakes WMA - Tracts 20/21	10225202	203	\$1,918,000	No	Full	Full

### Jackson

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Libra WMA - Tract 2	10438221	80	\$590,000	No	Full	Full
Teal Lake WMA - Tract 3	10436230	80	\$675,000	No	Full	Full

### Lyon

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Greenhead WMA - Tract 2	10940221	119	\$500,000	No	Full	Full

**Martin**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rooney Run WMA - Tract 31	10332228	80	\$600,000	No	Full	Full
Seymour Lake WMA - Tract 3	10332229	150	\$1,170,000	No	Full	Full

**Meeker**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Thoen Lake WMA - Tract 2b	11932224	155	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

**Murray**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dovray WMA - Tracts 19/19a	10740213	165	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full
Great Oasis WMA - Tract 27	10742210	200	\$1,400,000	No	Full	Full
Stoderl Slough WMA - Tract 1	10542225	160	\$750,000	No	Full	Full

**Pope**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Westport WMA - Tract 3	12536202	160	\$800,000	No	Full	Full

**Redwood**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Daubs Lake WMA - Tract 2/2a	11137211	160	\$1,300,000	No	Full	Full

**Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs**

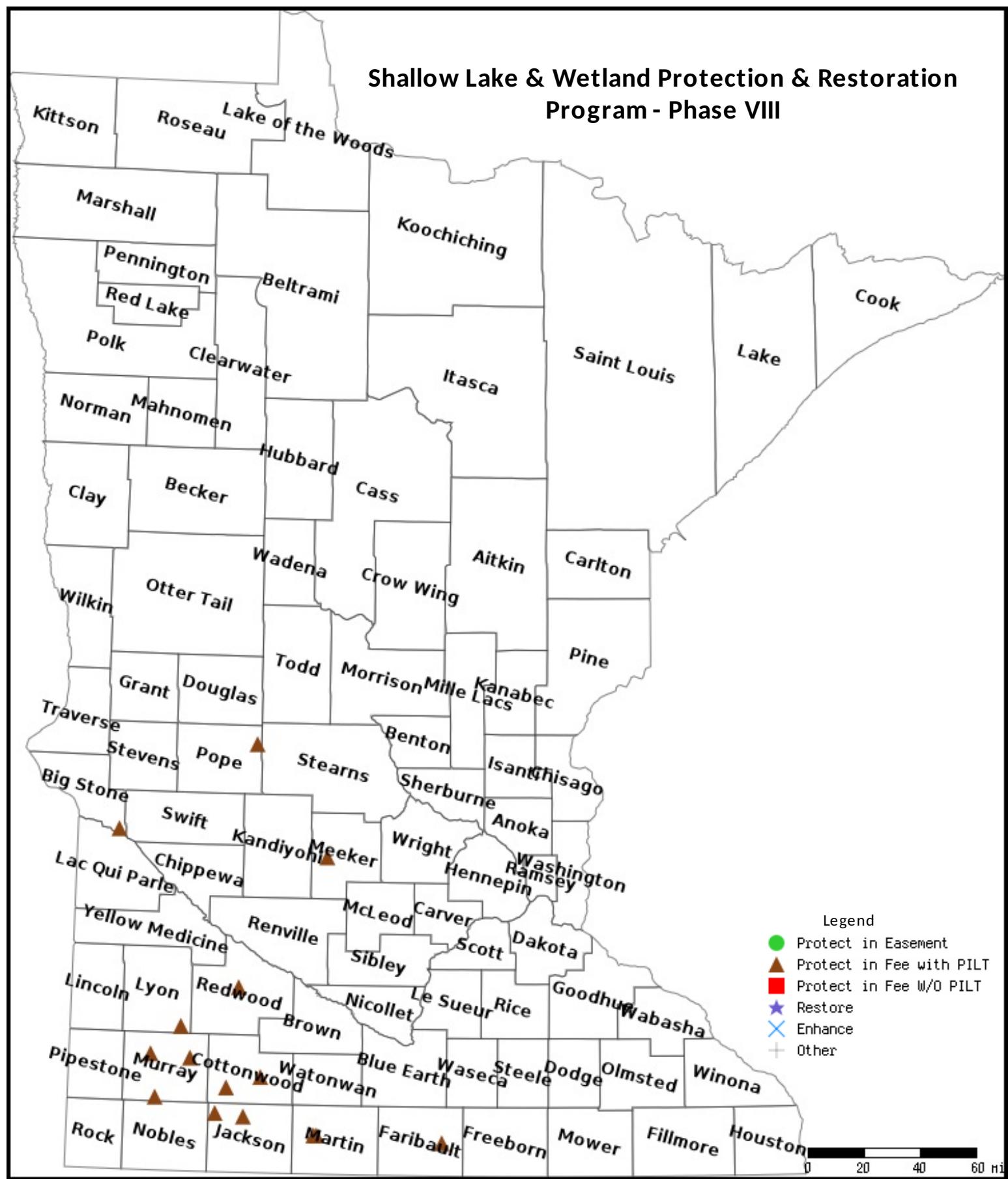
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

**Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity**

No parcels with an other activity type.

## Parcel Map

### Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase VIII



Data Generated From Parcel List

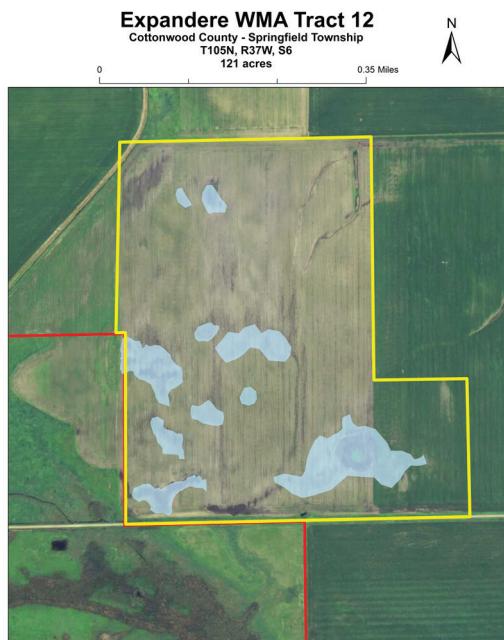




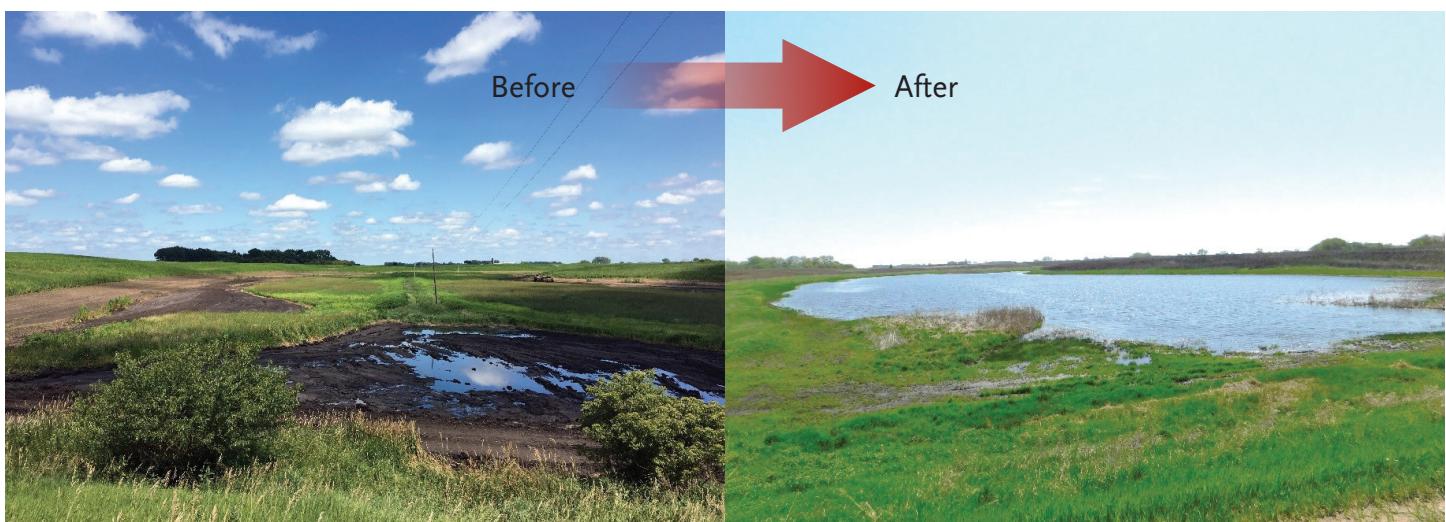
# SHALLOW LAKE & WETLAND PROTECTION & RESTORATION PROGRAM - PHASE VIII

**Proposal Request:** \$13,500,000

**Proposal Abstract:** This Phase 8 request funds Ducks Unlimited's prairie land acquisition and restoration program. DU will acquire and restore 1,500 acres of land containing drained wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota for restoration and transfer to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state WMA system. This land acquisition and restoration program focuses on restoring cropland along shallow lakes and adjoining WMAs containing wetlands to help restore prairie wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks and other wildlife. DNR will help seed uplands, and DU engineers will survey, design, and hire private sector contractors to restore wetlands.



**LIVING LAKES** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
CLEAR WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT





# SHALLOW LAKE & WETLAND PROTECTION & RESTORATION PROGRAM - PHASE VIII

