

WMA Acquisition Prioritization Process

Why is it needed?

- DNR acquires land as WMA across all landscapes primarily for public hunting and fishing and for the production of game species.
- In the past modest funding and low volume allowed DNR Management to use an informal process to select priorities based on experience
- In recent years increases in funding, the number and variety of parcels available, and special interest from partners has necessitated a more structured approach to help establish priorities.

What is the Process?

- First step is to evaluate each parcel against a set of criteria that have been established as important to new lands being considered for acquisition into the WMA system. Produces an evaluation "score".
 - Scoring criteria are subject to change as we get more input from partners
 - Will be reviewed periodically to reflect updated planning efforts and priorities
- Second step is to establish a priority "rank" for scored parcels consistent with the unique funding request being prepared. Produces a priority "rank".
 - Ranking will vary depending on the purpose and restrictions for each independent funding proposal.
 - Ranking provides an opportunity to consider other unquantifiable reasons for acquiring a specific parcel.

How does Step 1 - the scoring tool work?

- Computer assisted process using existing DNR Geographic Information System (GIS) and user input data
- User creates a geo-referenced map of parcel and inputs parcel information into software application
- Software application automatically queries existing databases and creates a numerical score based on the following criteria:
 - Part of an existing complex of protected lands and waters
 - Size of the parcel
 - Recreational use potential – proximity to population centers
 - Addition to existing unit
 - Working Lands Target Area
 - CBS/SGCN site
 - Proximity to shallow/rice lakes
 - High conservation value forest
 - Native Prairie Remnant
 - Prairie Grouse Leks
 - Major Deer Wintering Area

How does Step 2 - ranking work?

- After all parcels are scored they are packaged into appropriate funding requests
- Regional and Central Office Managers then discuss and finalize ranking taking into consideration such non-scoring factors as:
 - Imminent threat of development
 - Unique opportunity
 - Management issue resolution
 - Collaborative partnership
 - Litigation or legal commitment

Criteria by LSOHC Planning Section

<i>Criteria</i>	N Forest	Transition	Metropolitan	SE Forest	Prairie	<i>Criteria total points possible</i>
Adjacency to existing unit	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
Native Prairie	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	2
Habitat Complex within 4 sq mile buffer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
High Priority Forest	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	1
Deer Wintering area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2
Recreation Potential	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
Wild Rice/Shallow Lakes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2
Acreage	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
WLI Target Area Score	N	Y	Y	N	Y	2
Rare and Natural Features	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1
Prairie Grouse Leaks	Y	Y	N	N	Y	2
<i>Number of valid criteria for the L-SOHC Planning Section</i>	9	11	10	9	10	
<i>Total Pts Possible (max possible = 30)</i>	26	30	28	26	29	30

WMA Scoring Tool Criteria Definitions

Primary Scoring Criteria

- **Within a 4 sq mi polygon containing an existing WMA, WPA, or designated wildlife lake; existing size (range <160 to >1000 acres)**

Definition: Potential acquisition parcel that is within a 4 sq mi polygon that contains an existing WMA, WPA, or designated wildlife lake; point values increase with increasing size of the existing WMA, WPA or designated wildlife lake.

Acres	Points
0-160	1
251-500	2
501-1000	3
>1000	4

- **Size of acquisition parcel (range < 80 to > 240 acres)**

Definition: The acreage of a potential acquisition parcel; point values increase with increasing acreage.

Acres	Points
0-80	1
81-160	2
161-240	3
>240	4

- **Proximity to people/users (50 miles from < 10,000 to > 100,000)**

Definition: The distance of a potential acquisition parcel to a town, city, or urban area having a concentration of people; point values increase with increasing human populations.

Population Size	Points
0-10,000	0
10,001-25,000	1
25,001-50,000	2
50,001-100,000	3
>100,000	4

- **Within or adjacent to existing WMA, or adjacent to WPA or designated wildlife lake**

Definition: Potential acquisition parcel that is within (in-holding) or adjacent to an existing WMA (4 pts), or adjacent to a WPA (1 pt) or designated wildlife lake (3 pts).

Secondary Scoring Criteria

- **Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Target Area (2pts)**

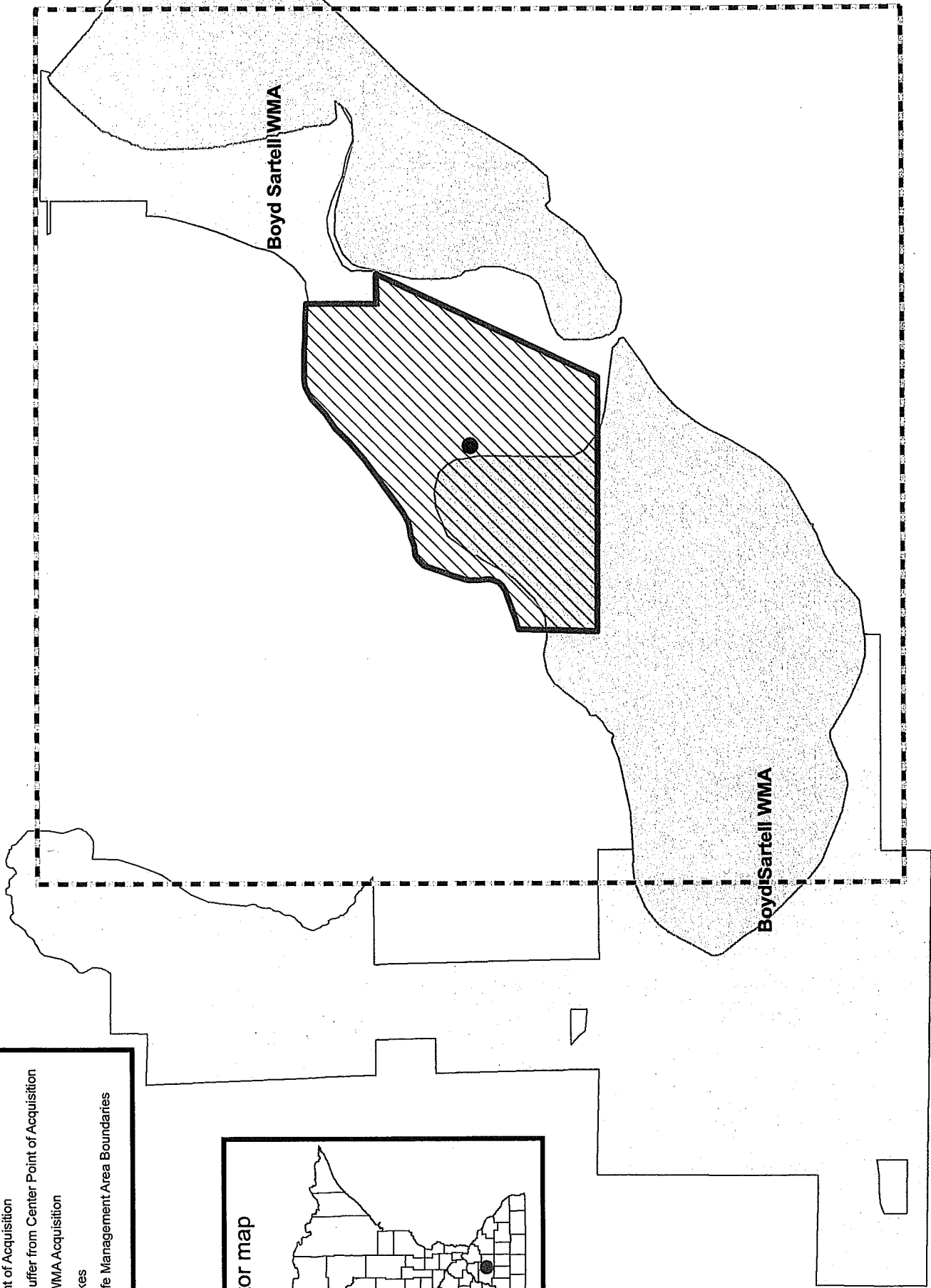
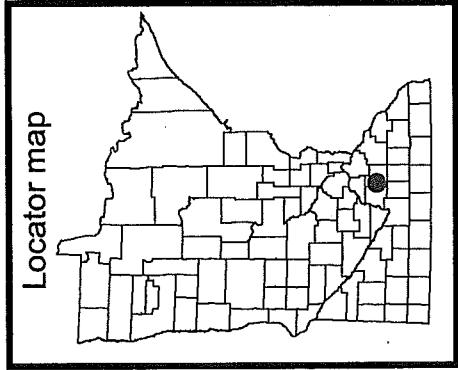
Definition: A geographic area, identified by a Working Lands Initiative project, that generally includes a significant land protection and/or habitat complex.

- **County Biological Site/Rare Natural Element SGCN (1pt)**
 Definition: A significant site from the standpoint of a county biological survey conducted by the natural heritage program/a rare species or community based on a county biological survey conducted by the natural heritage program/species of greatest conservation need as outlined in Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare.
- **Shallow lakes and/or wild rice lake (2pts)**
 Definition: Shallow Lakes - Lakes having relatively shallow water depths (generally <6 feet) containing or having the potential to contain extensive stands of submergent and/or emergent vegetation, that tend to naturally favor wildlife over fish communities. Priority given to Designated Wildlife Lakes, Wild Rice lakes - The most significant Wild rice lakes or lakes having significant wild rice.
- **High priority forest types not covered under CBS, etc. (2pts)**
 Definition: Forest communities that have a high conservation value, e.g., old growth, communities with high or outstanding biodiversity, or having species (plant or animal) that are rare, endangered, or of greatest conservation need.
- **Native Prairie not covered under CBS, etc. (2pts)**
 Definition: An area of intact unbroken native prairie habitat.
- **Prairie Grouse Leks (2pts)**
 Definition: Areas where prairie grouse (sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chickens) perform courtship displays.
- **Deer wintering areas (2pts)**
 Definition: Areas where deer traditionally winter in large concentrations, usually tied to a natural habitat feature, e.g., a river bottom, beach ridge, mature or mixed age forest complex, etc.

Boyd Sartell WMA Proposed Acquisition in Rice County

Legend

- Center Point of Acquisition
- Four Mile Buffer from Center Point of Acquisition
- Proposed WMA Acquisition
- Shallow Lakes
- State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries



Boyd Sartell WMA, Rice County Tract 5 Proposed Acquisition Tool Run 8/2/2010

Existing WMA Adjacency Selections - Checks to see if the proposed acquisition is adjacent to or is an in holding of an existing WMA ***
The Proposed WMA intersects the Boyd Sartell WMA which is 154.6 acres in size

Processing the WMA Approved Project Boundary intersection....
The proposed WMA intersects the Boyd Sartell WMA Approved Project

Processing the Waterfowl Production Area boundary intersection....
Does not intersect a Waterfowl Production Area

Processing the WLI Target Area Boundary intersection....
The Proposed WMA intersects the Grasslands for Biomass Partnership

Selecting cities that intersect a 50 mile buffer out from the center of the proposed WMA...
Population of all cities that intersect a 50 mile buffer out from the center of the proposed WMA = 2,523,169.0
User Proximity score = 4

Creating 4 square mile polygon around the center of the proposed WMA...

Processing the 4 square mile polygon intersection with existing WMAs selection...
This is the number of WMAs that intersect the 4 square mile buffer around your Proposed WMA 2
Acreage of WMAs that intersect the 4 mile square buffer around this proposed WMA = 991.0

Processing the 4 square mile polygon intersection with WPAs selection...
This is the number of WPAs that intersect the 4 square mile buffer around your Proposed WMA 0
Acreage of WPAs that intersect the 4 mile square buffer around this proposed WMA = 0

Processing the L-SOHC Planning Sections intersection....
The Proposed WMA is located in the Prairie L-SOHC planning Section

Processing the Rare and Natural Features intersection....
Multiple Rare and Natural Features intersect this Proposed WMA

Processing the LCCMR Habitat Corridors Project (Phase IV) boundary intersection....
The Proposed WMA intersects the Southern Lakes LCCMR Habitat Corridor Area (Phase IV)

Processing the Prairie Grouse Leaks intersection....
No Prairie Grouse Leaks

Processing the Shallow Lakes intersection....

1 Shallow Lake intersected this proposed WMA

Processing the designated wildlife lakes intersection....

This is the number of designated wildlife lakes selected within the 4 square mile buffer around your proposed WMA 0

Basin Acreage of all designated wildlife lakes that intersect the 4 mile square buffer around this proposed WMA = 0

Processing the Wild Rice Lakes intersection....

No Wild Rice Lake

Individual Point Values are:

The Within or Adjacent to an existing WMA; or adjacent to a WPA or designated wildlife lake points = 3

The Habitat Complex points = 4

The total acreage of WMA, WPA, and Designated Wildlife Lakes that intersect the 4 square mile buffer around this Proposed WMA (Habitat Complex acreage) is 991.0

The Native Prairie points = 0

High priority forest points = 0

Deer wintering area points = 0

WLI Target Area score = 2

Size Acreage score = 3

The calculated acreage for this proposed acquisition = 225.146570624

Rare and Natural Features points = 1

Prairie Grouse Lek Points = 0

Recreation Potential Points = 4

Shallow/Wild Rice Lakes Score = 2

Additional information for this proposed WMA acquisition:

Wildlife Work Area Name - Owatonna Wildlife Work Area

LCCMR Habitat Corridors Project Area Name - Southern Lakes LCCMR Habitat

Corridor Area (Phase IV)

L-SOHC Planning Section - Prairie

Total points possible for the Prairie L-SOHC Planning Section = 29

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Total score for this Proposed WMA = 19

out of a possible score of 29

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Completed script WMAScoreV101...

Executed (WMAScoreV101) successfully.

End Time: Mon Aug 02 16:28:15 2010 (Elapsed Time: 1 minutes 11 seconds)

