

Date of Submission: December 13, 1994

LCMR Work Program 1994

I. Project:

Title: Establishment of Critical Winter Habitat Areas On Intensively Farmed Land.

Program Manager: David E. Nomsen  
Agency Affiliation: Pheasants Forever, Inc.  
Address: 2101 Ridgewood Drive NW  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
Phone: (612) 763-6103

A. Legal Citation: M.L.93 Chpt.172, Art., Sect.14, Subd.12(d)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget:-----\$100,000.00

Balance: \$5,720.72

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a contract with Pheasants Forever, Inc. to acquire and establish areas of critical winter habitat for wildlife on farmland in Scott County. This appropriation must be matched by \$60,000 nonstate funds.

B. Not Applicable

C. Status of Match Requirement:

Match required; \$60,000.00  
Funds Raised to Date: \$60,000.00

II. Narrative:

This project will safeguard wildlife's existence and provide increased recreational and economic benefits in Scott County through the acquisition and development of four twenty-acre critical winter habitat areas.

III. Statement of Objectives:

A. Acquire and develop four critical winter habitat areas within a township size portion of Scott County.

IV. Objectives:

A. Title of Objective: Acquire and develop four critical winter habitat areas within a township size portion of Scott County.

A.1. Narrative: Acquire and develop four critical winter habitat areas within a township size portion of Scott County.

A.2. Procedures: Four, approximately, twenty-acre sized winter habitat areas will be established to meet the critical needs of resident wildlife in a quarter township area devoid of winter cover.

A.3 Budget: \$5,720.72 December 13, 1994

A.4 Timeline

	7/93	12/93	6/94	12/94	6/95	9/95
Acquisition	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx					
Development	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx					
Progress Reports	x	x	x	x		
Final Report:						x

A.5 Status: Potential sites inventory completed. Four of four site acquisitions completed. Draft development plans for three sites completed. Development to commence Spring of 1995.

A.6. Benefits: This objective will establish critical winter habitat areas enabling survival of resident wildlife species and contributing to the maintenance of Minnesota's bio-diversity. The project will provide an innovative community based solution involving private landowners, governmental agencies, and private conservation organizations in the funding, establishment, and maintenance of permanent wildlife habitat. Additionally, the establishment of these areas will result in increased recreation and economic benefits to the community.

V. Evaluation: Following successful acquisition, subsequent habitat development and deeding to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, these critical habitat areas will annually be surveyed for wildlife in a cooperative effort by MNDNR employees and Pheasants Forever volunteers.

#### VI. Context:

The Scott County Pheasants Forever chapter has, over the past years, established an average of 700+ acres of food plots and over 450+ acres of nesting cover for resident wildlife. A major limiting factor for resident wildlife populations has been the lack of permanent winter habitat. Severe winter weather often reduces wildlife populations by as much as 90 percent in intensively farmed areas. The proposed LCMR funding will result in four winter habitat areas unique to this intensively farmed county and will demonstrate the effectiveness of managing a small amount of land area for resident wildlife. The development of these areas will supplement the existing habitat base, primarily state wildlife management areas in adjacent townships.

#### VII. Qualifications

##### 1. Program Manager

a. David E. Nomsen, Certified wildlife biologist with 15 years professional experience. M.S. Degree South Dakota State University.

##### 2. Cooperators:

Mr. David Moran

a. Scott County Pheasants Forever Chapter

Mr. Jon Parker

a. Area Wildlife Manager

b. MNDNR

Dr. Alfred Berner

a. Farmland Research Leader

b. MNDNR

#### VIII. Reporting Requirements

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, January 1, 1995 and a final status report by June 30, 1995.