



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Living Shallow Lake Enhancement & Wetland Restoration Initiative - Phase VII

Laws of Minnesota 2018 Final Report

General Information

Date: 05/13/2025

Project Title: Living Shallow Lake Enhancement & Wetland Restoration Initiative - Phase VII

Funds Recommended: \$3,740,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 4(f)

Appropriation Language: \$3,740,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands on public lands and wetlands under permanent conservation easement for wildlife management. A list of proposed shallow lake enhancements and wetland restorations must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

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Location Information

County Location(s): Douglas, Murray, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Becker and Sibley.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

Ducks Unlimited successfully enhanced 979 wetland acres and restored 150 wetland acres through this grant, which collectively exceeds our grant acre goals of 1,050 acres of wetland enhancement and restoration for this 2018 OHF appropriation. Ducks Unlimited successfully completed this work by spending over 99% of this OHF grant appropriation while also providing significantly more non-state leverage than proposed, specifically \$1,112,600, which is 794% more than the \$140,000 pledged back in 2018 by successfully leveraging several federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) standard and small grants along with providing more DU private funding too.

Process & Methods

Ducks Unlimited promptly began spending this ML 2018 OHF grant in July 2018, with DU biologists and engineers surveying and designing several new shallow lake enhancement projects while beginning construction of several previously-designed projects too. The following is a list of wetland projects and acres completed by Ducks Unlimited for the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under this 2018 OHF appropriation:

25-acre wetland enhancement on Eng Lake Waterfowl Production Area in Douglas County near Alexandria with a variable crest water control structure.

200 acres of wetland enhancement on Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County near Detroit Lakes with variable crest water control structures.

425-acre Lake Maria in Murray County near Garvin was enhanced with a variable crest water control structure, pump system, and electric fish barrier.

130 acres of wetlands were restored and 56 acres of wetlands were enhanced on Orange Waterfowl Production Area in Douglas County near Osakis with a combination of variable crest water control structures and small wetland work like embankment building and sediment removal.

46-acres of wetland enhancement on Loen Waterfowl Production Area in Swift County near Benson with a fixed crest water control structure.

227-acre Flinks Slough in Lac Qui Parle County near Boyd was enhanced with a variable crest water control structure.

Finally, DU restored 20 acres of wetlands on Ward Lake Wildlife Management Area in Sibley County near Stewart with sediment and tile removal and embankment building.

These completions bring our restoration total 979 acres enhanced and 150 acres restored.

Total accomplishments include 979 wetland acres enhanced and 150 wetland acres restored by DU through this grant, which exceeds the collective acre goal of 1,050 acres of shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration for this 2018 OHF appropriation.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

This program enhances and restores shallow lakes, large marshes, and small pothole wetlands in Minnesota's Prairie Section. Many wildlife species of greatest conservation need and those listed as Threatened or Endangered rely on wetlands or are wetland-dependent. As Minnesota has lost 90% of our wetlands in the Prairie Section and most of the larger marshes and shallow lakes there are turbid and degraded due to agricultural drainage runoff and invasive fish (especially common carp), this conservation work directly benefits the habitat needs of many Minnesota wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including Threatened/Endangered species found in Minnesota's Prairie Section.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

This program implements projects in partnership with the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and DU biologists work closely with wildlife managers in these agencies to restore and enhance wetlands, marshes, and shallow lakes on public land or under state and federal agency control. These areas were purchased or eased by state and federal agencies using science-based targeting and planning, and DU serves as a wetland restoration/enhancement partner.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

This program implemented wetland projects in partnership with the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and DU biologists work closely with wildlife managers in these agencies to ensure public awareness and support for our conservation work is secure. In the case of shallow lakes, MN DNR often holds public meetings to present shallow lake water level draw-down plans and gain wildlife lake management designation approval before projects are implemented. In short, no significant opposition was encountered, and landowners were usually very supportive. DU also secured federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) standard and small grants to help fund several projects and further leverage state OHF grant funds spent thru this program.

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

Ducks Unlimited successfully enhanced 979 wetland acres and restored 150 wetland acres through this grant, which exceeds our collective grant acre goal of 1,050 acres of wetland enhancement and wetland restoration for this 2018 OHF appropriation. Ducks Unlimited successfully completed this work by spending over 99% of this OHF grant appropriation while also providing significantly more non-state leverage than proposed, specifically \$1,112,600, which is 794% more than the \$140,000 pledged back in 2018 by successfully leveraging several federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants along with providing more DU private funding too.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?

N/A

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

All wetland projects restored and enhanced through this grant are owned and managed by either Minnesota DNR or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. As such, wildlife habitat managers in these state and federal agencies will be responsible for sustaining and maintaining the water level control structures and wetland habitats enhanced and restored through this grant in perpetuity.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2025 and beyond	State DNR and Federal USFWS	Agency staff will monitor/manage	Agencies will annually inspect	Agencies will maintain as needed

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$690,000	\$700,000	\$614,800	\$20,000	\$423,300	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$710,000	\$1,038,100
Contracts	\$2,500,000	\$2,740,000	\$2,851,900	\$100,000	\$100,000	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$2,600,000	\$2,951,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$54,700	\$10,000	\$43,300	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$90,000	\$98,000
Professional Services	\$95,000	\$120,000	\$120,700	-	-	-	\$95,000	\$120,700
Direct Support Services	\$70,000	\$55,000	\$53,600	-	-	-	\$70,000	\$53,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$125,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$125,000	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$95,000	\$50,000	\$39,100	\$5,000	-	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$100,000	\$39,100
Supplies/Materials	\$85,000	\$15,000	\$5,200	\$5,000	\$1,100	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$90,000	\$6,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,740,000	\$3,740,000	\$3,740,000	\$140,000	\$567,700	-	\$3,880,000	\$4,307,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Manager - grant administration and program coordination	0.5	4.0	\$80,200	-	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$80,200
Professional engineers, surveyors, construction managers, and biologist to plan, design, and implement projects	6.0	4.0	\$534,600	\$423,300	DU private and future federal NAWCA	\$957,900

Capital Equipment

Item	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Portable diesel pump on trailer, fuel tank, and pipes/hoses for USFWS	-	-	-	-

Direct Support Services

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 all billable DU conservation staff categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses.

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Ducks Unlimited successfully spent over 99% of this OHF grant appropriation while also providing significantly more non-state leverage than proposed, specifically \$1,112,600, which is 794% more than the \$140,000 pledged back in 2018. This was made possible by successfully leveraging several federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) standard and small grants along with providing more DU private funding too.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	50	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	150
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	1,000	979	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	979
Total	1,050	1,129	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,050	1,129

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	\$240,000	\$497,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$240,000	\$497,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$3,500,000	\$3,243,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,500,000	\$3,243,000
Total	\$3,740,000	\$3,740,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,740,000	\$3,740,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	150	0	0	50	150
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	979	0	0	1,000	979
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,050	1,129	0	0	1,050	1,129

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$240,000	\$497,000	-	-	\$240,000	\$497,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,500,000	\$3,243,000	-	-	\$3,500,000	\$3,243,000
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,740,000	\$3,740,000	-	-	\$3,740,000	\$3,740,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

Ducks Unlimited successfully exceeded the conservative acres pledged for this program, which were estimated and planned several years in advance of project completion and were dependent upon partnerships with Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, as well as dependent upon engineering feasibility and permitting. DU always strives to exceed our goals, and we are thankful that our planning and partnerships allowed us to exceed our goals.

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Enhanced shallow lake productivity ~ Enhanced shallow lake productivity ~ All projects were completed in partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife (Fish & Wildlife Division) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and field staff from these land management agency partners will annually monitor and manage the shallow lake and wetland habitats restored and enhanced through this appropriation. For shallow lakes enhanced through this appropriation, the Minnesota DNR Shallow Lakes Program's specialists will conduct shallow lake assessment surveys when requested by Minnesota DNR Area Wildlife Managers responsible for those lakes.

Parcels

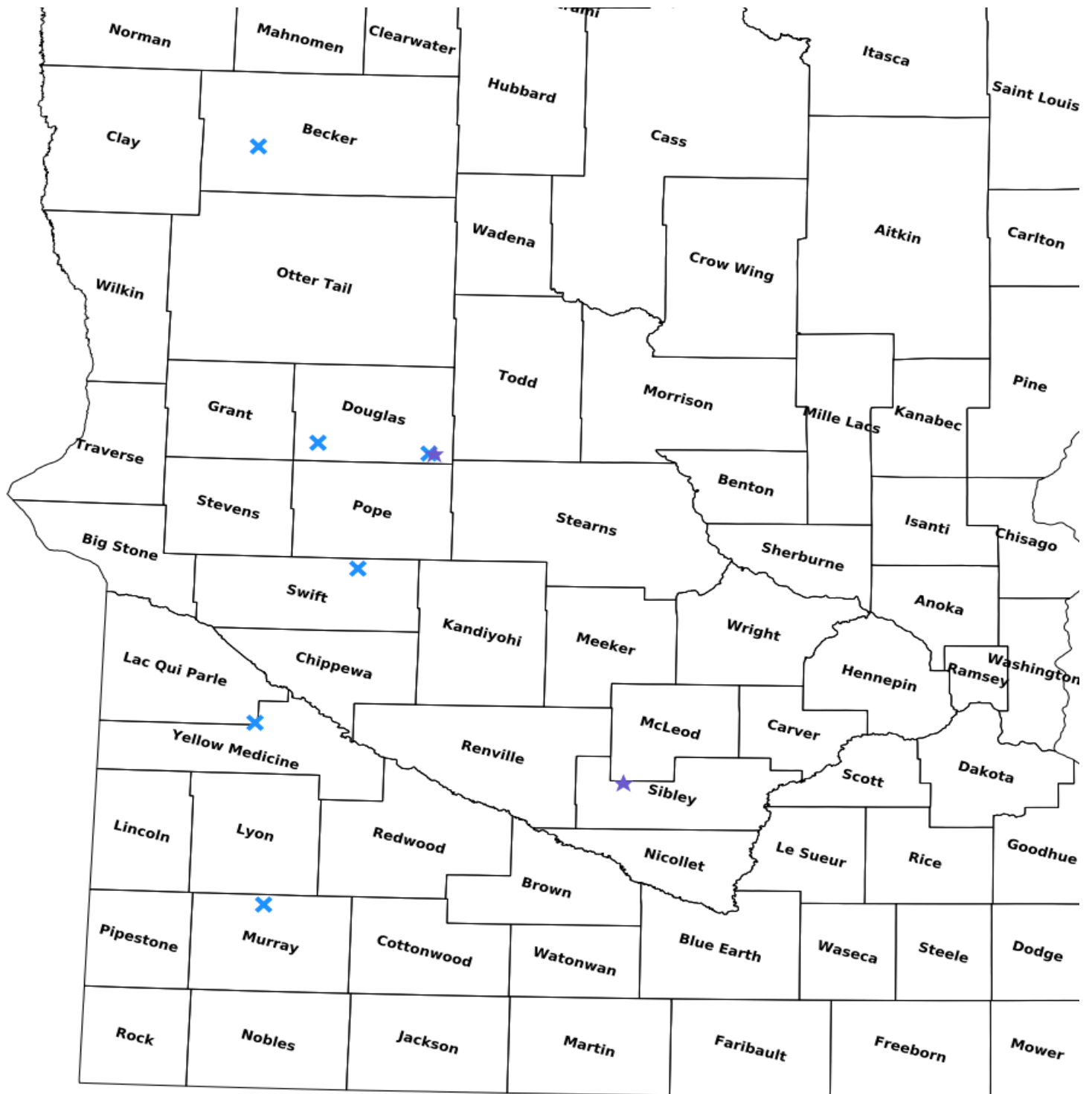
Sign-up Criteria?

No

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Hamden Slough NWR	Becker	13942202	200	\$633,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structures for USFWS
Eng Lake WPA	Douglas	12740211	25	\$109,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS
Orange WPA	Douglas	12736221	130	\$615,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Orange WPA - Enhancement	Douglas	12736220	56	\$133,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands on federal WPA
Flinks Slough WMA	Lac qui Parle	11642236	227	\$116,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for MNDNR
Lake Maria	Murray	10841217	425	\$1,050,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure, pump, and fish barrier for MNDNR
Ward Lake WMA	Sibley	11330204	20	\$118,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for DNR
Loen WPA	Swift	12238218	46	\$168,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for USFWS

Parcel Map



0 11 22 33 mi

- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ✚ Other