



# WA 03

# SHALLOW LAKES & WETLANDS PROTECTION & RESTORATION PHASE XII

Ducks Unlimited proposes to strategically acquire and restore 1,600 acres of prairie and wetlands for inclusion in Minnesota DNR state Wildlife Management Areas, including 320 acres of wetlands and 1,280 of upland prairie.

- Phase 12 of Ducks Unlimited’s ongoing programmatic land acquisition and restoration program.
- Focus: Restorable prairie-wetland complexes on WMAs and on DNR-managed shallow lakes.

**Primary goals:**

- ◆ Strategically acquire and restore marginal agricultural lands with drained prairie wetlands adjacent to state WMAs.
- ◆ Strategically restore and buffer prairie land around DNR-managed shallow lakes and wetlands.
- ◆ Benefit breeding and migrating waterfowl, pheasants, non-game prairie birds and pollinators.
- ◆ Help implement Minnesota’s Prairie Conservation Plan by restoring prairie and wetlands in key landscapes.

**Secondary goals:**

- ◆ Preserve remnant native prairie where possible on tracts for sale.
- ◆ Provide public hunting and other outdoor opportunities on lands acquired for Minnesota DNR state WMAs.

**Location:** Prairie Pothole Region in the southwest prairie portion of Minnesota.

**Habitat Outputs:** 1,600 acres of protected prairie and wetland habitat for breeding ducks and other wildlife.

**Wildlife Outcomes:** Based on DNR guidance and best available science, we estimate this habitat will support 130 pairs of mallards, 2-3 pairs of trumpeter swans, 753 pairs of bobolinks, 610 pairs of grasshopper sparrows, 427 harvested rooster pheasants and 3,840 – 10,240 monarch butterflies.

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>BUDGET:</b>          | <b>\$13,980,000 TOTAL REQUEST</b>  |
| Land Acquisition:       | \$ 9,660,000 to purchase 1,200 acres or more, depending on appraised value of land                   |
| Contracts:              | \$ 2,600,000 for wetland and native prairie restoration contracts                                    |
| Professional Services:  | \$ 160,000 for land appraisals, title reviews, boundary surveys, closing costs, etc.                 |
| Personnel:              | \$ 990,000 for DU biologists and engineers over five years to buy and restore land                   |
| In-state Travel:        | \$ 90,000 for DU biologists and engineers over five years to buy and restore land                    |
| Supplies and Materials: | \$ 90,000 for native grass and forb seed materials and other supplies to restore land                |
| Tools and Equipment:    | \$ 150,000 for prairie seeding and wetland restoration equipment, including GPS survey lease         |
| Capital Equipment:      | \$ 30,000 for a tracked ATV for topographic wetland restoration design land surveys                  |
| Support Services:       | \$ 90,000 for DU staff support costs, including legal, administrative, office, etc.                  |
| DNR Land Acquisition:   | \$ 60,000 for DNR Lands & Minerals Division realty staff and AGO staff fees to transfer land         |
| DNR IDP Costs:          | \$ 60,000 for DNR wildlife to implement “Initial Development Plan” signs, posts, parking areas, etc. |

**PRIOR DU OHF ACQUISITION APPROPRIATION SPENDING AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

| Appropriation Year: | Appropriation \$: | Funds Spent:       | Remaining:  | Acres Accomplished:                              |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| 2009 (Phase I)      | \$ 450,000        | \$450,000 (100%)   | \$ 0        | 2 tracts, 85 acres - <i>completed</i>            |
| 2010 (Phase II)     | \$2,625,000       | \$2,616,500 (100%) | \$ 0        | 3 tracts, 330 acres - <i>completed</i>           |
| 2013 (Phase III)    | \$3,530,000       | \$3,530,000 (100%) | \$ 0        | 11 tracts, 567 acres - <i>completed</i>          |
| 2015 (Phase IV)     | \$9,040,000       | \$8,958,800 (99%)  | \$ 0        | 3 tracts, 1,004 acres - <i>completed</i>         |
| 2016 (Phase V)      | \$5,801,000       | \$5,788,800 (99%)  | \$ 0        | 8 tracts, 824 acres - <i>completed</i>           |
| 2017 (Phase VI)     | \$5,750,000       | \$5,750,000 (100%) | \$ 0        | 8 tracts, 764 acres - <i>completed</i>           |
| 2018 (Phase VII)    | \$4,770,000       | \$4,399,600 (92%)  | \$ 370,400  | 4 tracts, 603 acres - <i>restoration ongoing</i> |
| 2019 (Phase VIII)   | \$6,150,000       | \$4,413,700 (72%)  | \$1,736,330 | 7 tracts, 609 acres - <i>restoration ongoing</i> |
| 2020 (Phase IX)     | \$4,608,000       | \$3,351,100 (73%)  | \$1,256,900 | 5 tracts, 518 acres (100% of goal)               |
| 2021 (Phase X)      | \$4,581,000       | \$4,161,600 (91%)  | \$ 419,400  | 5 Tracts, 549 acres (83% of goal)                |
| 2022 (Phase XI)     | \$4,779,000       | \$0 (0%)           | \$4,779,000 | 0 Tracts, 0 acres (0% of goal)                   |

**By 2024, DU will have spent most past OHF grant funds appropriated for fee-title land acquisition!**

