



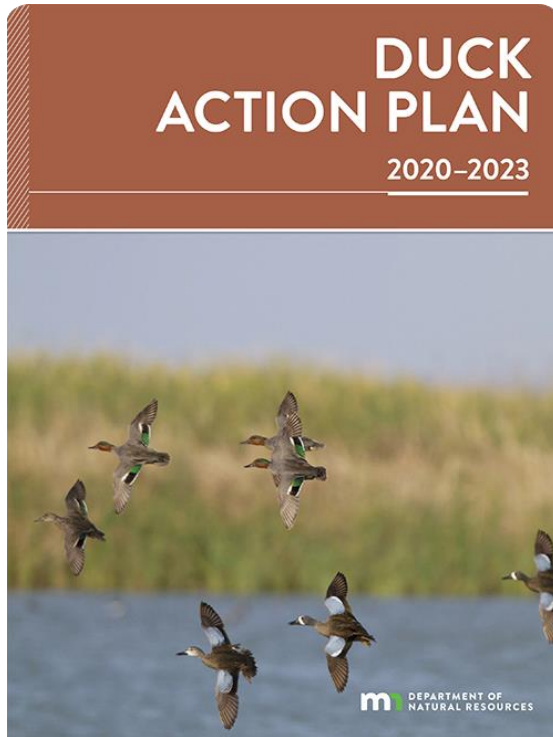
## 2025-2030 Duck & Pheasant Action Plans

# 2025-2030 Duck & Pheasant Plan: Presentation Overview

1. Scope of refresh
2. Process overview & timeline
3. Highlights of new Duck & Pheasant Action Plans
4. Implementation

# 2025-2030 Duck & Pheasant Action Plans Scope

To provide an Update/Refreshment of the Duck and Pheasant Action Plans (2020-2023), which was drafted to guide shorter term management actions in support of longer-term strategic plans like the Long-Range Duck Recovery Plan adopted in 2006, Long-Range Pheasant Plan adopted in 2005, and 2015 Pheasant Summit Action Plan.



- Reviewed performance of past plan
- Refresh current plan to include:
  - ✓ changes in current conditions and strategic issues
  - ✓ identify needed revisions
  - ✓ DNR priorities for next 5 years

# 2025-2030 Duck Action Plan

## **Project Organization**

- Executive Sponsor – Kelly Straka
- Managing Sponsor – Leslie McInenly
- Planning Sponsor – Kelly Wilder
- Project Manager – Rob Baden
- Plan Lead – Nick Brown
- Statewide Species Lead – Bruce Davis
- Statewide Habitat Lead – Ricky Lien
- Project Administrator – Greta Brandt

## **Project Team**

- Nicole Hansel-Welch, John Maile, Jeff Tilma, Pete Takash, Waterfowl Committee Members





# 2025-2030 Pheasant Action Plan

## **Project Organization**

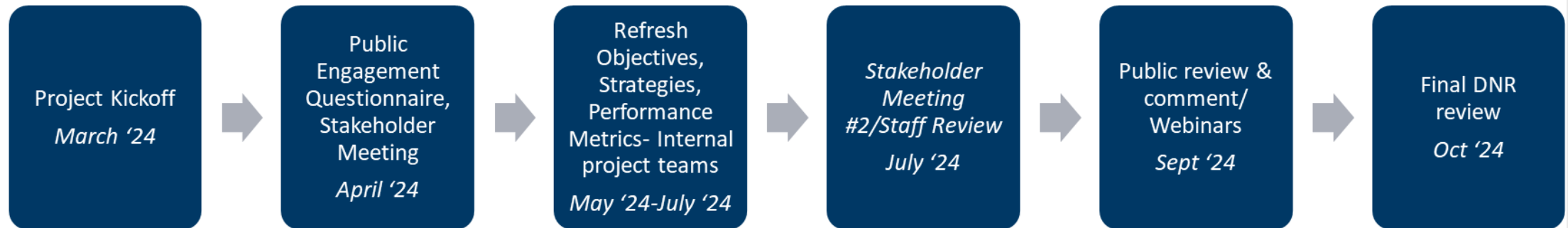
- Executive Sponsor – Kelly Straka
- Managing Sponsor – Leslie McInenly
- Planning Sponsor – Kelly Wilder
- Project Manager – Joe Stangel
- Plan Lead – Nate Huck
- Statewide Species Lead – Nate Huck
- Statewide Habitat Lead – Greg Hoch
- Project Administrator – Greta Brandt

## **Project Team**

- Tim Lyons, Nate Mullendore, Amber Knutson, Jeff Tilma, Pete Takash, Upland Game Bird Committee Members

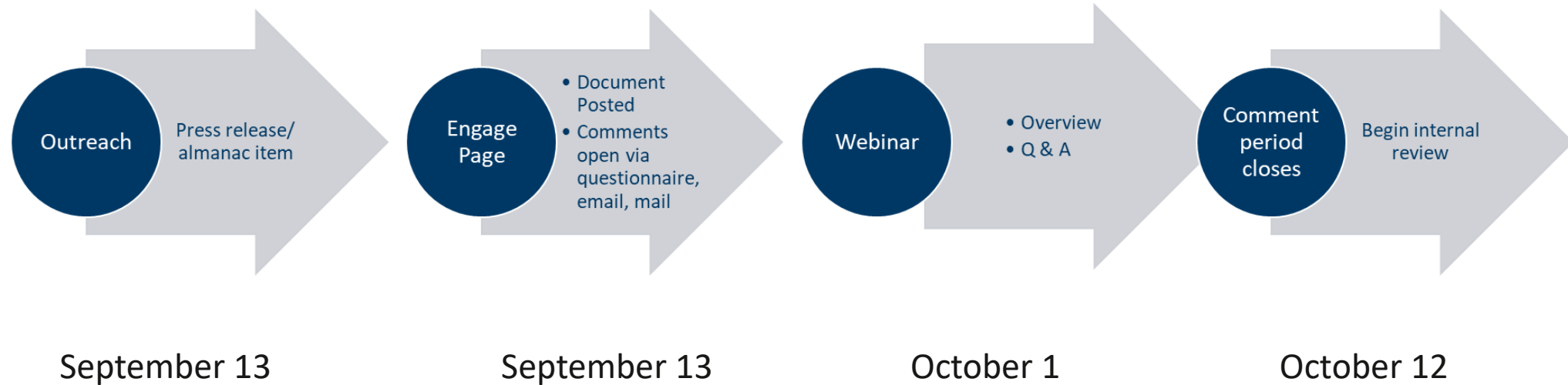


# 2025-2030 Duck & Pheasant Plan: Process overview & Timeline



# 2025-2030 Duck & Pheasant Action Plan

- Public Engagement



# 2025-2030 Duck & Pheasant Action Plan

- **Final revisions and document review**
  - Reviewed public comments and revise documents (*Oct '24*)
  - Final DNR leadership review of revised documents (*Nov '24*)
  - Revise documents based on leadership review, Creative Services coordination, and Final Communication Plan (*Dec '24*)
  - Plans Released @ Round Table (*Jan '25*)



# Duck & Pheasant Plan General Changes

- Key words added to Goals
- Plans reduced to 5 Objectives
- Order of strategies were changed based on importance rankings.
- More partner and tribal inclusive language.
- Performance metrics were changed to ease and focus tracking.
- Significant effort was made to ensure strategies were measurable.
- Tribal collaboration section added



# 2025-2030 Duck Plan Highlights

## Goals



- Increase the amount of **protected** wetland and associated upland habitat for ducks
- Maintain, enhance, and **restore** wetland, grassland and forest habitat for ducks
- Increase opportunities for and participation in outdoor recreation related to ducks and their habitat
- Increase public awareness and appreciation of wetland conservation for ducks and people

# 2025-2030 Pheasant Plan Goals

- Increase the amount of **protected** grassland habitat for pheasants
- Maintain, enhance, and **restore** grassland habitat for pheasants
- Increase opportunities for and participation in outdoor recreation related to pheasants and their habitat
- Increase public awareness and appreciation of grassland conservation for pheasants and people



# 2025-2030 Duck Action Plan

## Objectives

- **Objective 1** - Acquire additional habitat by maintaining the current pace of WMA acquisitions overall while increasing the proportion within priority areas. Additionally, improve access to private land for outdoor recreation by increasing acres enrolled in the DNR's Walk-In Access Program.
- **Objective 2** - Increase the quality and quantity of duck habitat through restoration and enhancement on state-administered land and managed shallow lakes.
- **Objective 3** - Support the work of partners to protect, restore and enhance duck habitat throughout the State of Minnesota in alignment with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- **Objective 4** - Develop and deliver messages on wetlands, grasslands and forest habitat, highlighting private land stewardship, DNR management, recreational opportunities, and the contribution of this habitat to a vibrant Minnesota.
- **Objective 5** - Refine research and monitoring priorities for ducks and their habitat and implement and continue research and monitoring work to address these priorities.

# 2025-2030 Pheasant Action Plan

## Objectives

- **Objective 1** – Improve habitat access for outdoor recreation by maintain the current pace of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) acquisitions while increasing the proportion of acquisitions within priority areas and through the DNR's Walk-in Access Program.
- **Objective 2** – Increase the quality and quantity of pheasant habitat through restoration and enhancement of WMA / AMAs in the pheasant range.
- **Objective 3** - Support the work of partners to protect, restore and enhance pheasant habitat throughout the pheasant range through habitat management, permanent conservation easements, and fee-title acquisitions.
- **Objective 4** - Develop and deliver messages on grassland habitats, highlighting private land stewardship, recreational opportunities, and the contribution of these habitats to a vibrant Minnesota.
- **Objective 5** - Refine research and monitoring priorities for pheasants and their habitats and implement and continue research and monitoring work to address these priorities.

# Duck Plan Items of Note

## Objectives/Strategies

- Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Support Tool – January 2028
- Maintain Wetlands and Shallow Lakes Programs
- Strengthen DNR interdisciplinary coordination on forest management practices for duck habitat
- Increase communication with partners via habitat enhancement meetings, partner support to ID strategic habitat areas, Watershed Districts, Canadian habitat work
- Outreach to focus more on highlighting our work to manage ducks and duck habitat, better website access and technical assistance to private landowners
- Waterfowl Committee and Habitat Programs to take more active role, more emphasis on sharing research both internally and externally



# Pheasant Plan Items of Note

## Objectives/Strategies

- Increased local coordination and more partner inclusive language
- Expansion of non-traditional management techniques
- Support and encourage partner led habitat enhancement
- Outreach to focus more on highlighting our work to manage ducks and duck habitat, better website access and technical assistance to private landowners
- Upland Game Bird Committee and Habitat Programs to take more active role, more emphasis on sharing research both internally and externally

# Objectives 1-2-3 - Habitat Focused

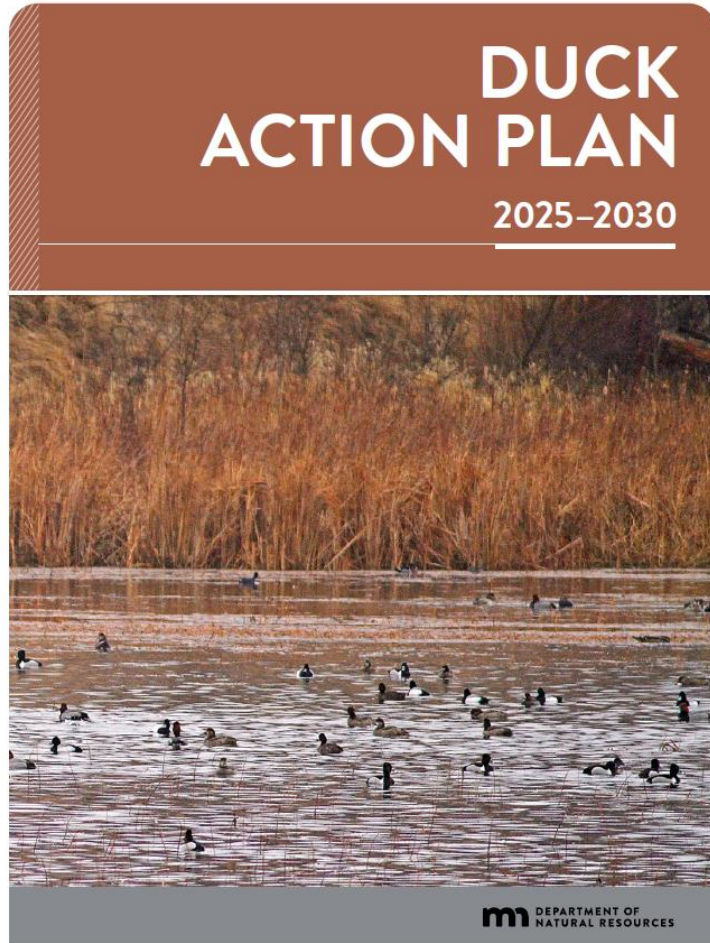
## Duck

- 4,500 acres per year acquired
- Acquire priority wetland, grassland, and forest wildlife habitat as identified via Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Support Tool
- WIA permanent funding and 35K acres per year
- Survey/assess 1,000 wetland acres/500 basins per year
- Restore/Enhance 5,000 wetland acres/500 basins per year
- Conduct shallow lake assessments on 35,000 acres or 70 basins annually
- Manage 90 shallow lakes and 80 wild rice lakes annually
- Designate or secure other management authority on two new shallow lakes annually
- Support partner led acquisition and habitat enhancement efforts, including working with interested partners to identify waterfowl priority areas to focus habitat work on.

## Pheasant

- 4,000 acres per year acquired
- Acquire priority grasslands through local technical teams
- WIA permanent funding and 35K acres per year
- Restore/Enhance 60,000 acres grassland per year
- Expand non-traditional habitat management techniques, 50% of management
- Restore/Enhance 5,000 acres of wetland per year
- Support partner led acquisition and habitat enhancement efforts.

# Implementation



- Implementation table complete
- Working with Area, Regional, and Program staff to implement the strategies within the plan
- Tracking of accomplishments via WAHMA.

# Questions!

**Rob Baden**

**Joe Stangel**