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**For more information:**

Contact the DNR Information Center  
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## Wetland habitat management, before and after



This spring, DNR wildlife managers were seeing results of successful wetland habitat management.

Check out the photos of wetland areas at [Copeland Wildlife Management Area](#) in Otter Tail County. The left photo shows more than 60 acres of this wetland on private land where no management has taken place, and the wetland full of invasive cattail — which offers minimal habitat value. The right photo shows more than 80 acres on the WMA where, last year, the DNR sprayed and roller chopped the invasive cattail. The work was completed by DNR staff in the Wetland Management Program and the West Central Roving Crew.

With the wetland clear for native plant growth, soon the ducks arrived to this great open-water habitat. During the fall duck hunting season this area had 10 or more vehicles parked around it most weekends, and hunters reported great success.

This spring, flocks of waterfowl have been seen using this basin and other nearby WMAs where other successful wetland management has been completed. The wetland with no management had zero duck use. Because of the aggressive nature of invasive cattail, DNR wildlife managers generally go back every few years to clear the wetlands. You can find more about how the DNR manages waterfowl habitat, and the DNR's Duck Action Plan, on the [DNR waterfowl management webpage](#).

This project was paid for by hunting and fishing license dollars and the [Outdoor Heritage Fund](#). The roller chopping was paid for by the [Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust](#), which received a [DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Program](#) grant to help the wetlands program conduct wetland management in west-central Minnesota. The grant also required a 10% match, which was provided by the [Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club](#), [Vikings Sportsmen, Inc.](#), and the Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust.