

CPL Applications
(Total to date: 129)

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

CPL1000026

Spreadsheet

Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000026	Street Address 1:	901 First St NE
Project Name:	Helliksen Prairie WPA Acquisition	Street Address 2:	
Organization Name:	Minnesota Waterfowl Association	City:	Hopkins
Organization Website:	www.mnwaterfowl.com	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Adam Benker/Brad Nylin	Zip Code:	55343
Contact Email:	adam.benker@mnwaterfowl.com		
Contact Phone:	952-767-0320		

Location

Primary County: Becker
 Nearest City:
 Township:
 Project Site Name: Helliksen Prairie WPA Acquisition
 Project Site Land Ownership: County
 Other Land Ownership:

Project Information

Primary Activity: Acquisition
 Primary Habitat Type: Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
 Total Project Acres: 156
 Total Project Sites: 1
 Total Grant Amount Requested: \$78575
 Total Match Amount: \$11000
 Total Project Cost: \$89575
 Project Completion Date: 08/2010 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: This grant will purchase a 156 acre tract adjacent to the WPA. This land is currently in tax forfeit and scheduled to be auctioned by the county. The wetlands on these acres are permanently protected as wetland mitigation acres. However, the surrounding uplands are not protected. If purchased for agricultural production the uplands can be disc'd and planted to rowcrops. If not purchased quickly, the county will be forced to place the land back into public auction and it would undoubtedly purchased for rowcrop production. The USFWS has approved this project.

Attachments

- [Project Site Information Form](#)
- [Project Budget and Match Description](#)
- Partner Commitment Letter
- Financial Documentation
- Conservation Easement
- Supplementary Attachment #1
- Supplementary Attachment #2

[Back](#)

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Project Site Information

Contact information

Project name:

Helliksen Prairie WPA Acquisition

Organization:

Minnesota Waterfowl Association

Organization contact person (Project Manager):

Brad Nylin

Project information

Project site:

Helliksen WPA WMA

Project site land manager or easement holder:

Legal :	T142	R42	S30	QNW
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Private land owner (if applicable):

USFWS - Detroit Lakes WMD

County:

Becker

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity:

30

 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site:

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Project site land manager or easement holder:

Legal :	T	R	S	Q
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Private land owner (if applicable):

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County:

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Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity:

156

 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #3, if needed. Use Additional Project Sites form if needed.

Project site:

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Project site land manager or easement holder:

Legal :	T	R	S	Q
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Private land owner (if applicable):

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County:

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Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity:

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 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project timeline:

Time frame	Goal	Time frame	Goal
Winter/Spring	acquire 156 acres of restored prairie wetlands		

Project description and benefits (box will expand as typed into, not to be longer than 2 pages):

Helliksen Prairie WPA is a 1700 acre Waterfowl Production Area in Becker County. It is frequently cited on FWS websites as one of the jewels of western Minnesota's Waterfowl Production Area program. Most of the site is native prairie and is the most diverse prairie so far censused in Becker County with almost 90 species of upland forbs.

[REDACTED]

The WPA produces numerous broods of waterfowl.

This grant will purchase a 156 acre tract adjacent to the WPA. This land is currently in tax forfeit and scheduled to be auctioned by the county. The Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District and Minnesota Waterfowl Association have formally requested that the land be removed from auction and held for a conservation buyer. The county has agreed to do this. The wetlands on these acres are permanently protected as wetland mitigation acres. However, the surrounding uplands are not protected. If purchased for agricultural production the uplands can be disced and planted to rowcrops. If not purchased quickly, the county will be forced to place the land back into public auction and it would undoubtedly purchased for rowcrop production.

The wetland and upland restoration on this site was done in cooperation with the USFWS in the late 1960s. The seed planted in the uplands was harvested from the adjacent native prairie on Helliksen WPA. Thus, the conservation community has already invested significantly in these acres. Losing these to agricultural production would waste all these past efforts. Maintaining these acres would increase the amount of contiguous, ecologically diverse grasslands to approximately 1900 acres. This would make the area one of the largest blocks of grassland nesting habitat in Becker County and in the larger Red River Valley Beach Ridge landscape. There are several other WPAs and WMAs in the general area and this WPA is part of the FWS's Four Square Mile surveys.

Once purchased these acres will be combined with the existing WPA. The MWA initiated this grant during conversations with staff and volunteers at the DLWMD offices. The MWA and DLWMD will work cooperatively through the entire process of working with the county until signs are posted on the borders of the new. As a WPA the public would have full access for all types of regularly permitted outdoor recreation. For grassland nesting birds, science tells us that bigger is better. Any time we can add patches of habitat to existing habitat to create larger blocks we will increase both the diversity and abundance of grassland nesting birds as well as plants, mammals, and herps.

Please provide the answers to the following questions. Boxes will expand as typed into.

1. For lands acquired in fee title that will be turned over to a public agency for long-term management:

- a. Provide a description of the work necessary to bring the land up to agency standards and an estimate of the associated cost.

None

- b. What short- and long-term work is required to manage the land you acquire?

None

2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:

- a. Who is/will be the long-term manager for the project site?

USFWS Detroit Lakes office

- b. What short- and long-term maintenance work is required to sustain the habitat work you will do?

Short Term - Site is ready

- c. Who will complete this maintenance work, and how will it be funded?

USFWS

- d. Will the CPL funds supplant any existing funds?

no

As required by 2009 MN Session Law, Chapter 172 subd. 10 (8), “any agency or entity receiving an appropriation must, for any project funded in whole or in part with funds from the appropriation, give consideration to and **make timely written contact with the Minnesota Conservation Corps** for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services”. Contact MCC at cplg@conservationcorps.org, or email a copy of this form to the same address. For more information on costs, crew capabilities, etc., visit MCC’s website at <http://www.conservationcorps.org/useacrew.html>.

Signature:

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program **Request for Proposal, Program Manual** and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder. I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I have made timely written notification to MCC regarding my restoration or enhancement project.

Signature: Brad Nylin	Organization/ Agency: Minnesota Waterfowl Associatio
Title: Executive Director	Date: 11/02/09

Please save this document to your computer or electronic storage device and attach this document as specified on the online submittal form when ready to apply. Contact [CPL Grant Staff](#) with any questions.

CPL Project Application Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Scott Kahan		
Title:	Project Leader - Detroit Lakes WMD	Date of meeting:	10/15/2009
Phone:	218-844-3403	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	scott_kahan@fws.gov	(assigned by agency, optional)	

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Helliksen Prairie Acquisition	Organization:	MN Waterfowl Assoc
Contact Person:	Adam Benker		
Email:	adam.benker@mnwaterfowl.com	Daytime Phone:	952-767-0320

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.
- For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

- this project to have no features within one mile.
- this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have recommended the following minimization strategy:

- this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

- I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR within 3 business days to [CPL Staff](mailto:CPLStaff@LSCPLGrants.DNR@dnr.state.mn.us) at LSCPLGrants.DNR@dnr.state.mn.us for review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.
- a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.

- an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.

CPL Project Application Review and Approval Form

- I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

Upon final review of this project:

- I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name:	Scott Kahan	Phone:	218-844-3403
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- By checking this box and typing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant.

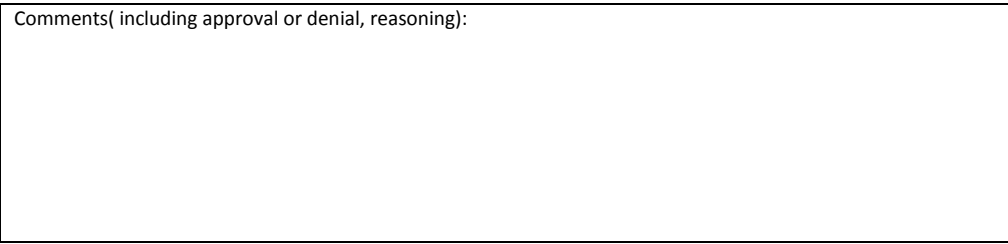
Name:	Scott Kahan
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Comments:

Name:		Phone:	
Title:		Email:	

Additional
necessary):

Comments(including approval or denial, reasoning):



review (if

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Project Budget and Match Worksheet, Application Requirement

Project name:	Helliksen Prairie WPA Acquisition	
Organization:	Minnesota Waterfowl Association	
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Brad Nylin	

Please complete all sections and be as detailed as possible for all descriptions under the Details sections. Limit entries in large tables to numbers only, **round to the nearest dollar**. Do not edit table categories, only enter values or text into the table. The tables will adjust to accommodate additional text in each box. If all categories are not needed, please leave those fields blank.

BUDGET: amounts being requested **Note: FY refers to State Fiscal Year: July 1- June 30, with the year reflecting the year that June falls in. For example: if today were September 3rd, 2009 it would be FY2010; December 3rd 2010= FY2011; May 2012= FY2012

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Total
Personnel				
Contracts				
Grant Administration	\$2,075.00			\$2,075.00
Administration/ Environmental Compliance				
Fee Acquisition	\$83,000.00			\$83,000.00
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Travel				
Additional Budget items				
Total	\$85,075.00			\$83,075.00

DETAILS: detail the amounts listed in the above table.

Personnel Details:

Name	Title	Amount

Contract Details:

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount

Grant Administration:

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount
Staff	staff salary, travel and project administration	\$2,075.00

Administration/ Environmental Compliance

Activity	Description	Amount

Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:

appraisal, an appraisal review, and abstract all other closing costs \$5000 price of land - \$78,000

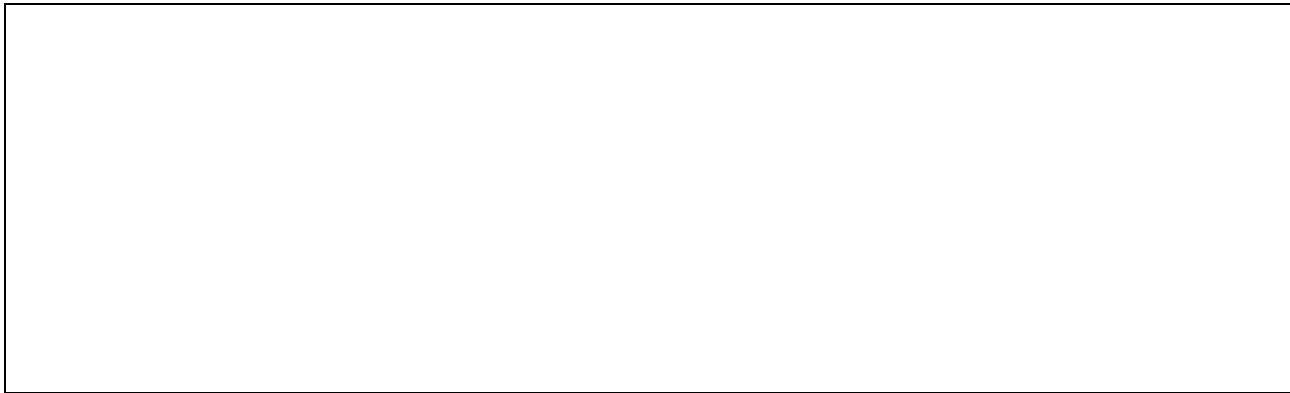
Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:

Item	Use	Amount

Travel Details:

Miles	Purpose	Amount

Additional Budget Items Details:

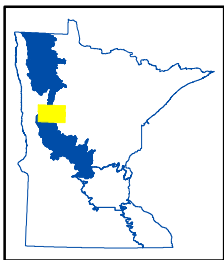
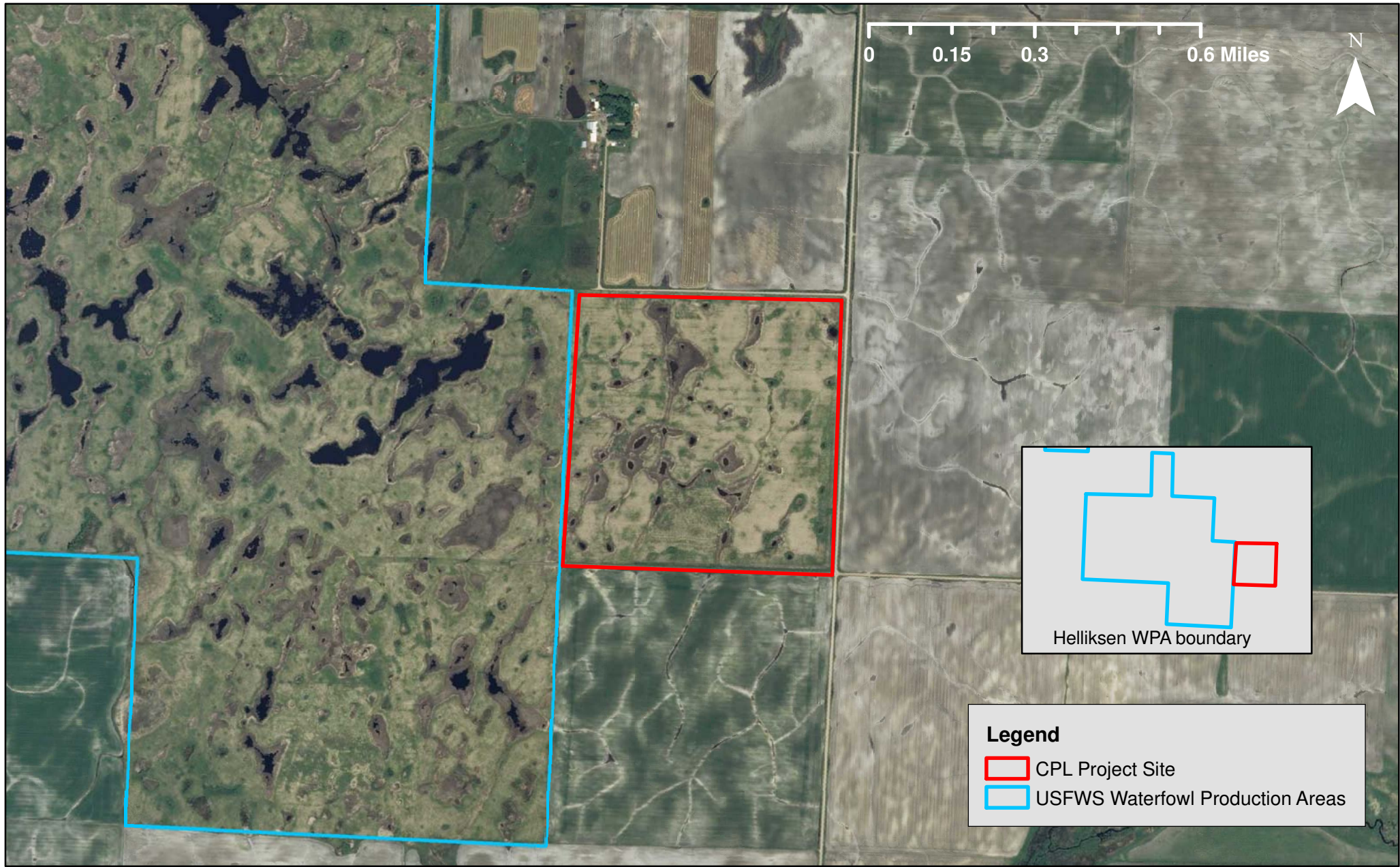


MATCH: Required 10% of total project funds, to be fulfilled by end of Fiscal Year 2012. Use provided rate sheet to determine unit rate and total value of in-kind services to be used as matching funds if applicable.

Source	Description	Units	Unit Rate	Total Value
Volunteer	Signage			\$500.00
USFWS	staff			\$1,000.00
USFWS	long term maintenance			\$5,000.00
West Central Waterfowlers Chapter of MWA	Cash Donation			\$4,500.00

Matching description/ comments: if needed

USFWS has staff and maintenance costs that will apply as well as signage for the new WPA, The MWA Chapter will provide a cash match as well to help exceed the 10%



CPL100-026
Helliksen Prairie WPA Acquisition

Becker County, LSOHC Forest/Prairie Transition Planning Section





In reply refer to: 10013tap

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District
26624 North Tower Road
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501-7959



October 30, 2009

CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM PARTNER COMMITMENT LETTER

What is the name of the project that you are contributing to, and who is the applicant?
Helliksen Prairie WPA Acquisition; Minnesota Waterfowl Association

What is the name of your organization (private landowners use "Private Landowner")?
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

When will you make the contribution? We will make the contribution after the purchase (and donation) of the property for 5 years post donation.

What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?
\$500 on signs; \$1000 for staffing; \$5,000 for long term maintenance
The value of contribution is based on staff salaries and past costs of signage and long term maintenance of similar habitats.

Does the contribution have a non-state origin? Yes, in kind work of USFWS staff

If this is based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will you still provide the contribution amount? N/A

Signature: Tiffany Parson (electronic signature)

Printed Name, Title, and Affiliation: Tiffany Parson, Acting Project Leader, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date Signed: 10/30/2009