

**CPL Applications**

(Total to date: 129)

**Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application****CPL1000043****Spreadsheet****Name and Contact**

Project Identifier:	CPL1000043	Street Address 1:	2312 Seabury Avenue
Project Name:	Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project	Street Address 2:	
Organization Name:	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	City:	Minneapolis
Organization Website:	www.mnvalleytrust.org	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Deb Loon	Zip Code:	55406
Contact Email:	debloon@comcast.net		
Contact Phone:	612-801-1935		

**Location**

Primary County:	Blue Earth
Nearest City:	Lake Crystal
Township:	Beauford, Ceresco, Lincoln, Lyra
Project Site Name:	Blue Earth County Waterfowl Production Areas
Project Site Land Ownership:	Federal and Private
Other Land Ownership:	

**Project Information**

Primary Activity:	Restoration
Primary Habitat Type:	Prairie
Total Project Acres:	420
Total Project Sites:	8
Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$150000
Total Match Amount:	\$50000
Total Project Cost:	\$200000
Project Completion Date:	07/2012 (MM/YYYY)

**Project Summary and Outcomes:** This project will restore and/or enhance 420 acres of native prairie, wetland, and oak savanna habitats on USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas in Blue Earth County. All restoration and enhancement work will be permanently protected and managed by the USFWS. Projects are located within eight WPAs throughout the county and build upon existing habitat complexes. Specifically, the project will restore and enhance 370 acres of prairie, 20 acres of wetlands, and 30 acres of remnant oak savanna to provide quality habitat for nesting, breeding, and brood rearing of migratory waterfowl, birds, and other game species.

**Attachments**

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

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# Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

## Project Site Information

**Contact information**

Project name:	Blue Earth County Waterfowl Production Areas Restoration and Enhancement Project			
Organization:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.			
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Deb Loon			

**Project information**

Project site:	Watonwan Waterfowl Production Area				
Project site land manager or easement holder:	Legal :	T106	R29	S6	QNW
	Charlie Blair, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge				
Private land owner (if applicable):	County:	Blue Earth			
	MN Valley Lands, Inc.				

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
 Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
 Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site:	Roberts Waterfowl Production Area				
Project site land manager or easement holder:	Legal :	T106	R27	S34	QSE
	Charlie Blair, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge				
Private land owner (if applicable):	County:	Blue Earth			
	MN Valley Lands, Inc.				

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
 Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
 Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

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

Project site:	Altenburg Waterfowl Production Area				
Project site land manager or easement holder:	Legal :	T106	R29	S26	QNW
	Charlie Blair, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge				
Private land owner (if applicable):	County:	Blue Earth			

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
 Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

**Project timeline:**

Time frame	Goal	Time frame	Goal
Winter 2010	Tree removal (30 acres)		
Winter 2010	Savanna tree removal (30 acres)		
Spring 2010	Forb Interseeding (140 acres)		
Spring 2010	Prairie planting (80 acres)		
Summer 2010	Wetland Restoration (20 acres)		
Winter 2011	Tree Removal (30 acres)		
Spring 2011	Forb Interseeding (100 acres)		

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

This project will restore and/or enhance 420 acres of native prairie, wetland, and oak savanna habitats on eight USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas in Blue Earth County. Fully 68% of voters in Blue Earth County voted yes for the Clean Water, Habitat, Cultural Heritage and Natural Areas Legacy Amendment in 2008.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, will work with the following partners to complete this project -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District) and Blue Earth County Minnesota Pheasants, Inc. The partners will restore and enhance 370 acres of prairie, 20 acres of wetlands, and 30 acres of remnant oak savanna.

All restoration and enhancement work completed under this project will be permanently protected and managed by the USFWS. The lands will be open to the public for wildlife dependent recreation, including hunting. Projects are located within eight Waterfowl Production Areas throughout the county and build upon existing habitat complexes. Three of the eight waterfowl production areas (Lincoln, Roberts, Watonwan WPAs) are currently owned by Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc., a subsidiary of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. which purchased the properties to expand the MN Valley Wetland Management District. Once restoration is complete, these lands will be donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and be managed and protected as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The remaining five Waterfowl Production Areas (Altenburg, Cobb River, Howard Farm, Ikier, Shelby) are under US Fish and Wildlife Service ownership and management.

**Prairie Restoration and Enhancement – 370 Acres**

- Restore 80 acres by retiring agricultural fields and planting 40 to 50 native local ecotype prairie species. [Watonwan WPA]
- Enhance 240 acres of native grass seeding by doing a prescribed burn, then inter-seeding with over 30 native forb species. [Roberts WPA]
- Enhance 60 acres of restored prairie on 6 WPAs by removing trees (mechanical and chemical) to reduce woody encroachment within the prairie. [Altenburg, Cobb River, Howard Farm, Ikier, Lincoln, Shelby WPAs]

**Wetland Restoration – 20 Acres**

- Restore 5 wetland basins (Types I – IV) on 2 WPAs by breaking drainage tile, constructing shallow earthen dams, installing a water control structure, and planting restored seasonal wetlands with native wetland species. [Altenburg and Watonwan WPAs]

**Oak Savanna Restoration and Enhancement – 30 Acres**

- Enhance a 30 acre remnant oak savannah by removing non-fire dependent tree and shrub species and encouraging

the establishment of native oak savanna species through a prescribed burn. [Watonwan WPA]

The project follows the mandates and objectives of the: MN Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, MN DNR Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, MN DNR Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare, NAWCA, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Plan and the Minnesota Valley NWR/WMD Comprehensive Conservation Plan. This restoration and enhancement project will provide quality habitat for nesting, breeding, and brood rearing of migratory waterfowl, birds, and other game species. In addition, the close proximity to other permanently protected lands (state and federal) magnifies the potential benefit to waterfowl and all other species within the area.

**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.

NA



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

NA

**2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:**

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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Minnesota Valley Refuge and Wetland Management District

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

Restoration and enhancement work will be monitored and maintained by the USFWS. All prairie and oak savanna work will be maintained and managed by the USFWS through prescribed fire and weed management. If inter-seeding is necessary for the oak savanna restoration, the MN Valley Trust will purchase seed and USFWS will install it. Wetland restoration will be maintained and managed by the USFWS through water level manipulation. No future funding requests for these projects are anticipated.

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

MN Valley Refuge and Wetland Management District (USFWS), Refuge Station Funds

- 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](mailto: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: Deb Loon	Organization/ Agency: MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.
Title: Executive Director	Date: 10/31/2009

**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

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### REVIEWER INFORMATION

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Charlie Blair, MN Valley NWR and WMD		
Title:	Refuge Manager	Date of meeting:	10/30/09
Phone:	952-854-5900	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	Charles_Blair@fws.gov	<small>(assigned by agency, optional )</small>	

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### PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Blue Earth County Waterfowl Production Areas Restoration and Enhancement Project	Organization:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.
Contact Person:	Deb Loon		
Email:	debloon@comcast.net	Daytime Phone:	612-801-1935

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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 at LSCPLGrants.DNR@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:CPLStaff@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

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- 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:		Phone:	
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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:	Charlie Blair
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Comments:

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Name:		Phone:	
Title:		Email:	

Additional  
necessary):

Comments( including approval or denial, reasoning):

review (if

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application Additional Project Sites Form

Project name:	Blue Earth County Waterfowl Production Areas Restoration and Enhancement Project		
Organization:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.		
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Deb Loon		

Project Site #4, if needed					
Project site:	Ikier Waterfowl Production Area				
Project site land manager	Legal :	T106	R29	S27	QSW
or easement holder:	Charlie Blair, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge				
Private land owner	County:	Blue Earth			
(if applicable):					

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
 Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
 Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

Project Site #5, if needed.					
Project site:	Shelby Waterfowl Production Area				
Project site land manager	Legal :	T105	R28	S36	QSE
or easement holder:	Charlie Blair, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge				
Private land owner	County:	Blue Earth			
(if applicable):					

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
 Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
 Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

Project Site #6, if needed					
Project site:	Lincoln Waterfowl Production Area				
Project site land manager	Legal :	T107	R29	S35	QSE
or easement holder:	Charlie Blair, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge				
Private land owner	County:	Blue Earth			
(if applicable):	MN Valley Lands, Inc.				

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
 Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

Project Site #7, if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder:  Legal :

Private land owner (if applicable):  County:

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

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Project Site #8, if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder:  Legal :

Private land owner (if applicable):  County:

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

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Project Site #9, if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder:  Legal :

Private land owner (if applicable):  County:

Activity (may choose more than one):  Enhancement  Restoration  Acquisition  
Predominant Habitat (choose one):  Forest  Prairie  Wetland  Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat  
Activity quantity:   Acres  Miles  Feet  Structures  Wetlands

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

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Project name:	Blue Earth County Waterfowl Production Areas Restoration and Enhancement Project	
Organization:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.	
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Deb Loon	

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 it would be FY2010; December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010= FY2011; May 2012= FY2012

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Total
<b>Personnel</b>				
<b>Contracts</b>	<b>\$110,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>		<b>\$140,000.00</b>
<b>Grant Administration</b>				
<b>Administration/ Environmental Compliance</b>				
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>				
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>				
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>				
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>		<b>\$60,000.00</b>
<b>Travel</b>				
<b>Additional Budget items</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$160,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>		<b>\$200,000.00</b>

**DETAILS:** detail the amounts listed in the above table.

**Personnel Details:**

Name	Title	Amount

**Contract Details:**

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount
Not Selected	Tree Removal FY2010	\$30,000.00
Not Selected	Tree Removal FY2011	\$30,000.00
Not Selected	Savanna Tree Removal and Treatment	\$60,000.00
Not Selected	Wetland Restoration Earthwork	\$20,000.00



**Grant Administration:**

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount

**Administration/ Environmental Compliance**

Activity	Description	Amount

**Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:**

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**Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:**

Item	Use	Amount
Native Seed	Praire Forb Enhancement (240 acres) Praire Planting (80acres)	\$60,000.00

**Travel Details:**

Miles	Purpose	Amount

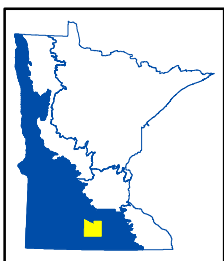
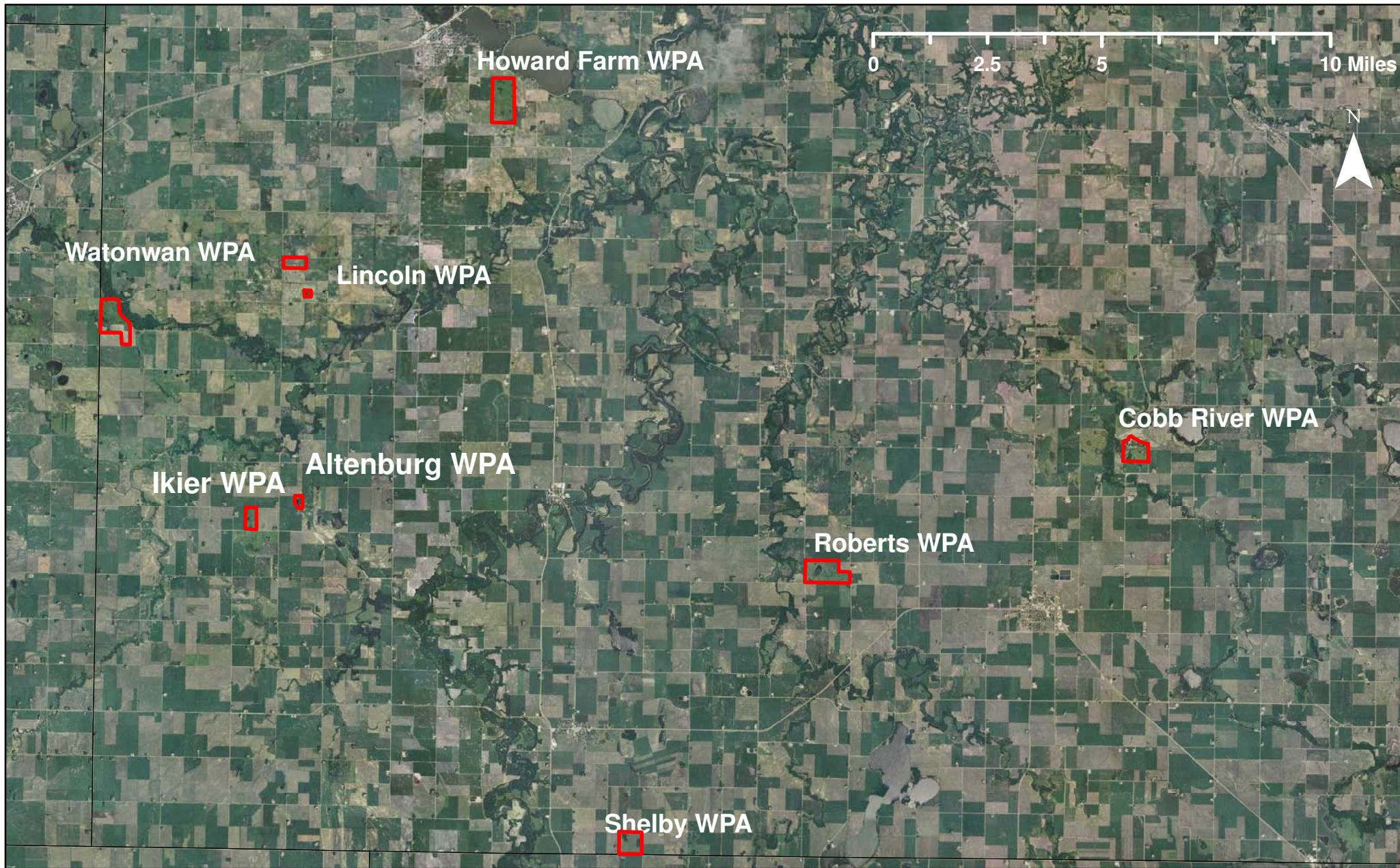
**Additional Budget Items Details:**

WPA Name	Acres	Cost	Project Description
Altenburg	10	15,000	Wetland Restoration
Cobb River	10	10,000	Tree Removal (mechanical & chemical)
Howard Farm	10	5,000	Tree Removal (mechanical & chemical)
Ikier	5	5,000	Tree Removal (mechanical & chemical)
Lincoln	15	20,000	Tree Removal (mechanical & chemical)
Roberts	240	24,000	Forb Inter-seeding
Shelby	10	20,000	Tree Removal (mechanical & chemical)
Watowan	120	101,000	Oak Savanna, wetland, and prairie restoration

**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
Non-State	Cash Donation - MN Pheasants Inc., BEC			\$50,000.00

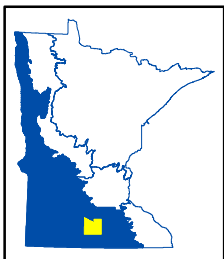
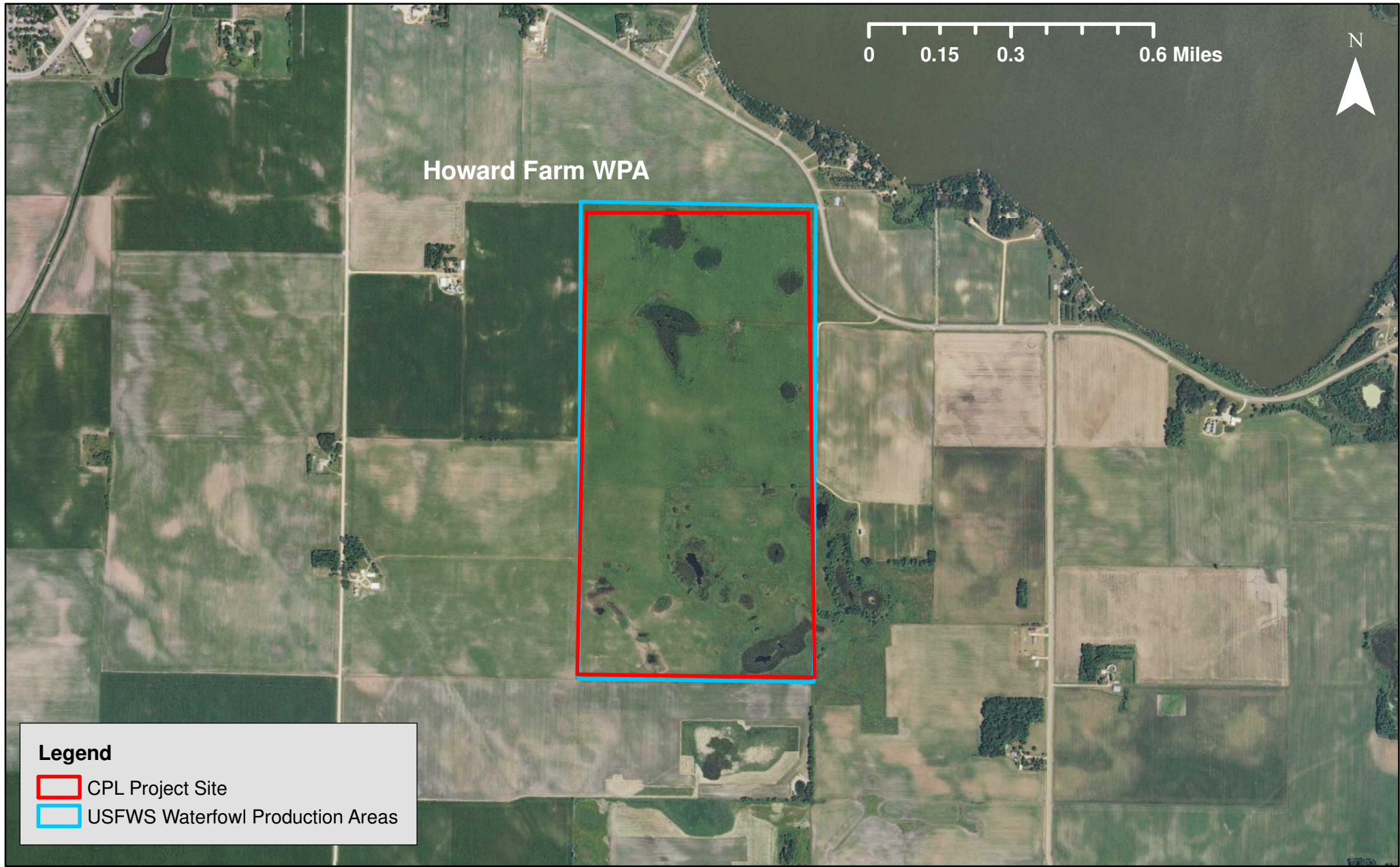
**Matching description/ comments:** if needed



CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section





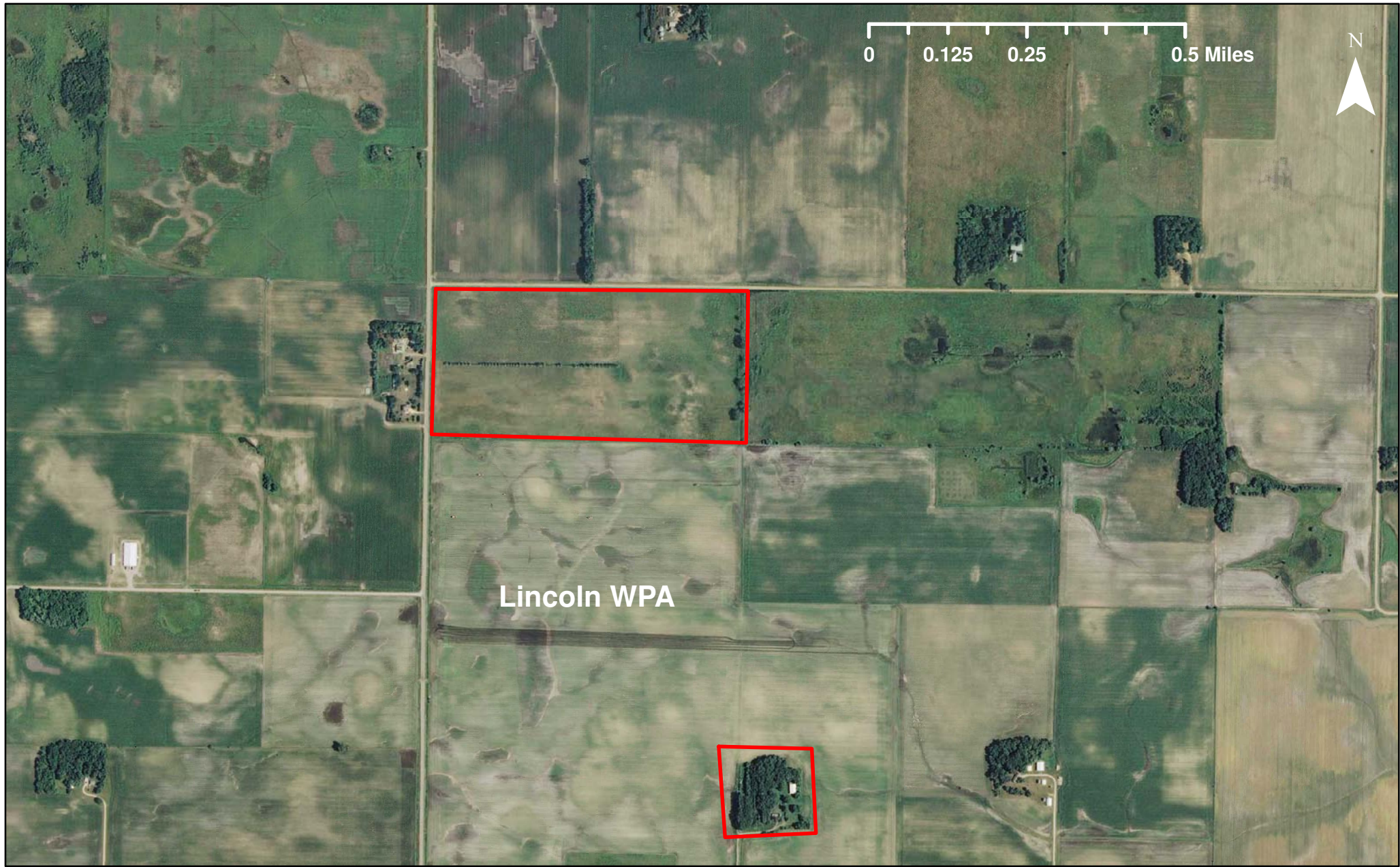


CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Howard Farm WPA

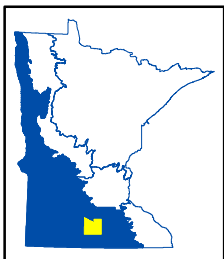
Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section







Lincoln WPA

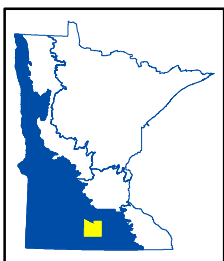
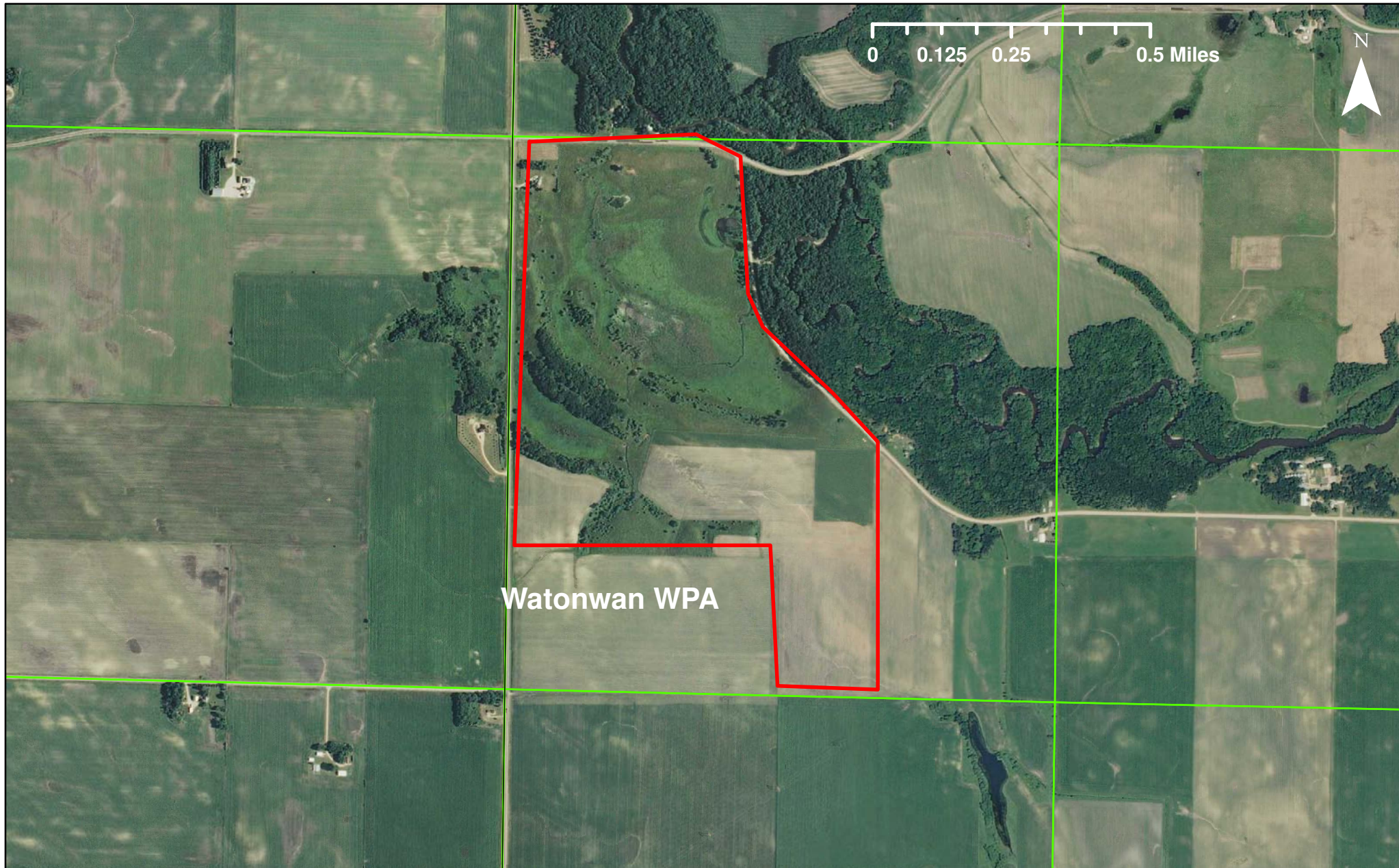


CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Lincoln WPA

Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section





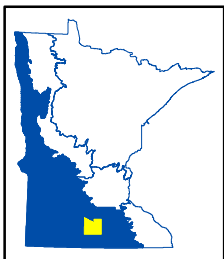


CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Watonwan WPA

Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section



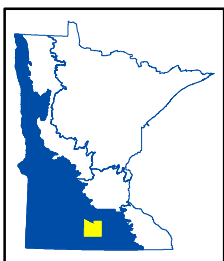




CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Altenburg and Ikier WPAs  
Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section





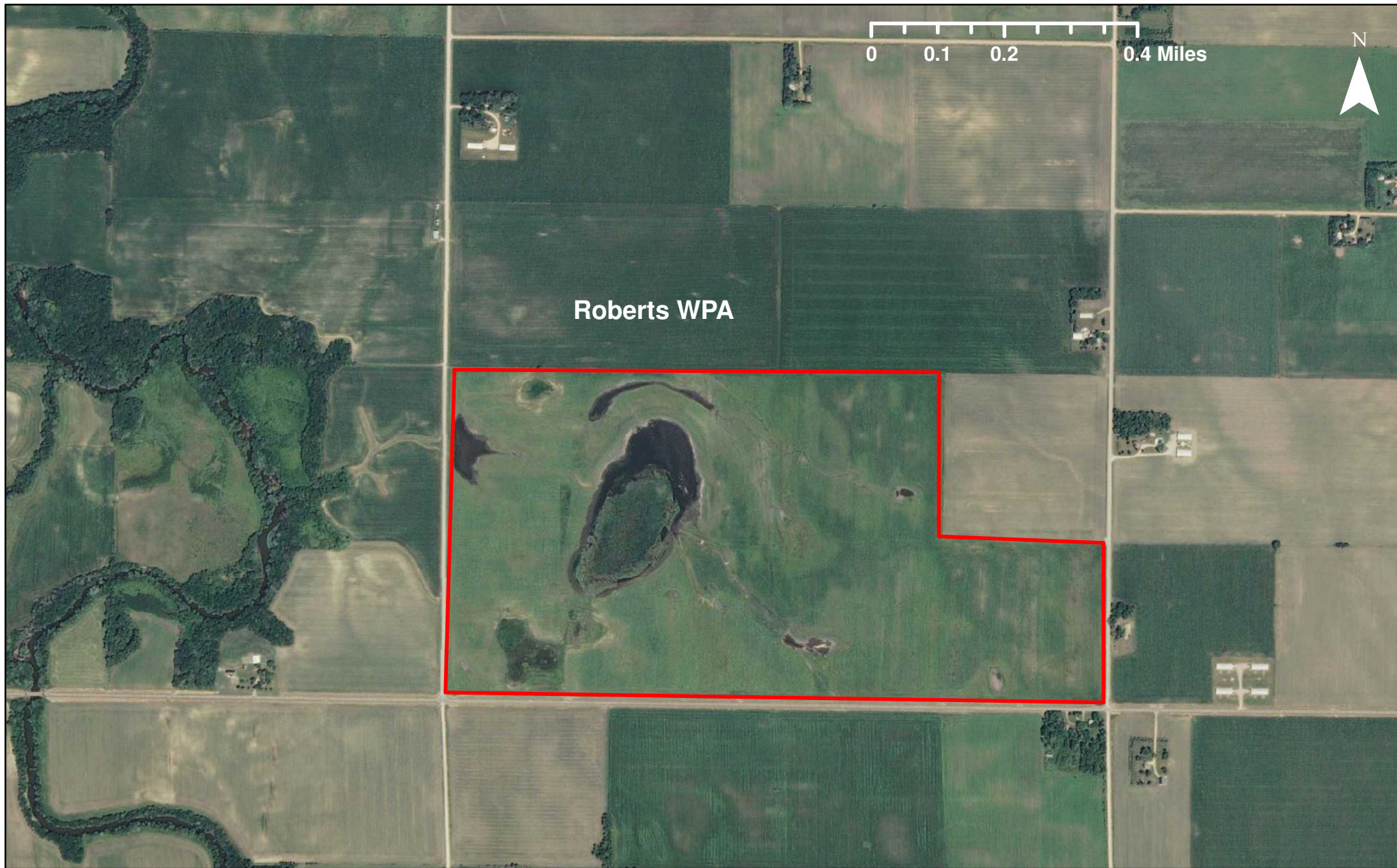


CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Cobb River WPA

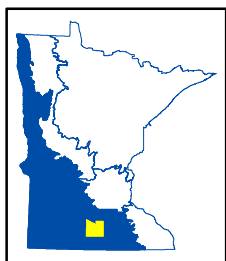
Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section







Roberts WPA



CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Roberts WPA

Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section

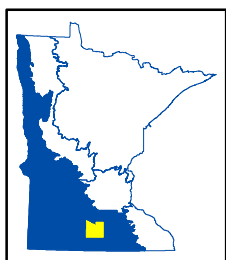






Shelby WPA

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



CPL100-043  
Blue Earth County WPA Restoration and Enhancement Project  
Shelby WPA

Blue Earth County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section



*Please print on your organization's letterhead*

**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?**

Project Name: Blue Earth County Waterfowl Production Areas Restoration and Enhancement Project

Applicant: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

**What is the name of your organization (private landowners use "Private Landowner")?**

Minnesota Pheasants, Inc. – Blue Earth County

**When will you make the contribution?**

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?**

**Does the contribution have a non-state origin?**

\$50,000 - Cash contribution with non-state origin

**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?**

NA

**Signature:**

**Printed Name, Title, and Affiliation:**

**Date Signed:**