

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

[Project Summary](#) [Project Info](#) [Site Info](#) [Budget Info](#) [Review & Approval](#) [Additional Info](#) [Application Submission](#)

Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	Southern Minnesota Wetland Initiative	Project Manager:	Scott Roemhildt
Organization Name:	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Title:	Regional Field Representative
Organization Type:	Non-Profit	Phone:	507-327-9785
Mailing Address 1:	677 390th Avenue	Email:	sroemhildt@pheasantsforever.org
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	Janesville		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	56048		

Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Freeborn	Secondary Land Ownerships:	
Nearest City:	Albert Lea		
Project Site Name:	Wetland Restorations on WPAs		
Primary Land Ownership:	Federal		

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Restoration	Primary Habitat Type:	Wetland
Additional Activities:		Additional Habitats:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Sites:	8		
Total Project Acres:	55		

Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$45,000
Total Match Amount Pledged:	\$5,000
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	\$50,000
Estimated Project Completion Date:	2012-12-28

Summary

The Southern Minnesota Wetland Initiative sets out to accelerate restoration of wetlands within permanently protected Waterfowl Production Areas, open to the public, to ensure these wetland complexes are providing the maximum benefits for waterfowl, wetland dependant species, and resident game species. Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will work in partnership to restore 19 palustrine emergent wetland basins totaling 55 acres within 8 existing Waterfowl Production Areas in Southern Minnesota.

Problem Statement

Prairie and wetlands, especially palustrine emergent wetlands, are the two most highly altered habitats in Minnesota and elsewhere throughout the Prairie Pothole Region. With such an immense amount of habitat loss coupled with a finite amount of conservation funding, it is vitally important that lands purchased for perpetual protection and management of wildlife provide the maximum

amount of benefits to the species that rely on these habitats.

Project Objectives

Breeding waterfowl are attracted to landscapes with a high density of temporary and seasonal wetlands. This partnership will restore these critical migratory waterfowl habitats. Specifically the partnership will restore 19 palustrine emergent wetland basins totaling 55 acres within 8 existing Waterfowl Production Areas. These restored and protected wetlands will provide ideal resting and nesting conditions for many species of migratory songbirds and waterfowl. The benefit of this project will be a restored and healthy wetland complex.

Methods

Wetlands will be restored by removing or breaking drainage tile lines, constructing small earthen dikes, and/or installing water control structures to USFWS standards. The USFWS have completed the initial feasibility determinations and will complete the final designs for the wetland restoration work. Pheasants Forever will hire a contractor to complete the construction and will oversee and manage the construction projects in coordination with the USFWS.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
Spring 2011	Solicit Request for Bids
Spring 2011	Hire Contractors
Fall 2011	Complete Restoration Work
Fall 2012	Complete Restoration Work (if previous field conditions don't allow)

Identify short and long term maintenance and management work required to sustain this project and source(s) of funding

Work needed	Who is responsible	Funding source
Prescribed fire, site assessments	USFWS - Windom WMD	USFWS - Windom WMD

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

Project Summary

Project Info

Site Info

Budget Info

Review & Approval

Additional Info

Application Submission

Project Information

Answer each of the following questions in 1000 characters or less; descriptions/definitions are available in the [Criteria and Scoring Table](#).

1. Describe the local support for this project.

This project is being supported through a number of organizations including Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and the USFWS Windom Wetland Management District. All proposed restoration work is within existing Waterfowl Production Areas which are used extensively by local sportsmen.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

Pheasants Forever and the Windom Wetland Management District has a long history of partnership and collaboration that has restored and protected thousands of habitat acres. This partnership with MWA builds upon this strong partnership. Without the strategic collaboration in this proposal, the projects would not happen.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

Full wildlife benefits will not be realized on these WPAs until the proposed wetland restorations are completed.

4. Discuss if there are multiple benefits resulting from your project, identifying those species, habitats, etc.

These restored and protected wetlands will provide ideal resting and nesting conditions for many species of migratory songbirds and waterfowl. In addition, Resident wildlife including white-tailed deer and ring-necked pheasants will also use the heavy cover provided by cattails fringing the wetlands for cover. The overall benefit of these projects will be a restored and healthy wetland complex and native prairie ecosystem.

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

These small, shallow, isolated basins are extremely important to waterfowl and other wetland dependant species. These small shallow basins warm quickly in spring providing important food sources like invertebrates for migrating waterfowl which includes priority species such as lesser scaup. Other early migrants like the northern pintail, gadwall, and mallards also heavily rely on these wetlands basins to fuel their journey northward. Resident breeding waterfowl, especially mallards, will rely on these wetlands for pair bonding as well. These restored and protected wetlands will provide ideal resting and nesting conditions for many species of migratory songbirds and waterfowl.

6. Describe how your project is consistent with sound conservation science.

The USFWS is and industry leader in developing and implementing the best wetland restoration techniques. Using local knowledge and engineering experience, the USFWS restoration designs will encompass the most sound conseravation science.

7. Indicate if your project is adjacent to protected lands, describing those lands (ownership, public access, etc.)

All restoration work is located within existing Waterfowl Production Areas, many of which are adjacent to other permanently protected and natural resource features.

8. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project and the sources of funding.

Full funding has been secured and the source of funding is cash match of non-state origin.

9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.

These grant funds will supplement existing conservation funding. This proposal stands alone and has no direct ties to other constitutional funds. Pheasants Forever has a long

history and proven track record conservation work within the state through RIM, NAWCA, and partnership with the USFWS and MWA. This request for Outdoor Heritage funds is part of an overall initiative to increase and accelerate the restoration of public lands that provide quality wildlife habitat that are open to the public for recreation. Partners supporting this project have limited funds to restore habitat, so the CPL grant will prove to be a catalyst to restoring these important habitats.

10. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.

All work is located within existing Waterfowl Production Areas and are open to the public for wildlife dependent recreation including hunting and fishing. All areas are open to the public throughout the entire year, including the hunting season.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

All work is within existing Waterfowl Production Areas which will be protected and managed in perpetuity by the USFWS Windom Wetland Management District.

12. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).

NA - Restoring the hydrology of the wetlands will return wetland dependant plant species from the existing seed bank.

13. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.

Using sound conservation science and utilizing the experience and local knowledge of USFWS biologists results in a cost effective and efficient restoration.

14. Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.

Pheasants Forever has considerable experience in administering and carrying out projects through grants from sources that include LCCMR, NAWCA, LSOHC and others. Our PF field reps team together with our PF grant administration staff to be sure that all work is carried out on schedule, within budget and according to the conditions of the grant. We are proud of our track record and success with the organizations listed above.

15. Discuss how your project supports landscape level plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

The work of this proposal is consistent with many of the strategies and objectives of existing plans including the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, the Long-range plan for the ring-necked pheasant in Minnesota, Long-range Duck Recovery Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Partners in Flight Physiographic Area Plan.

16. Discuss how your project supports species plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

To accomplish the goals of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Plan, it is mandatory that wetland basins "remain intact and functional" to maintain current duck pair populations. In addition, the MN Long Range Duck Recovery Plan and the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Waterfowl Plan emphasizes the importance of conserving small, shallow wetlands which "is considered critical for capitalizing on increased capacity for ducks to produce young in wet years" the PPJV states. This proposal directly addresses these priorities. The Partners in Flight Plan identifies that maintaining and enhancing existing grassland/wetland complexes across the landscape is the most important factor to maintain populations of birds in the area. Continuing restoration efforts through this proposal addresses the PIF plan and also benefits priority non-game wetland-associated birds.

17. Discuss how your project conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

This proposal conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan by: H5 – Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds (pg. 80) – This proposal focuses efforts within the area of the state that has experienced the most dramatic habitat loss. Wetlands will be restored to their historic conditions to as much as practicable. H7 – Keep water on the landscape (pg. 84) – The restoration restoration

within these permanently protected lands will keep water on the landscape through wetland restoration and native vegetation restoration (prairie restoration has already been completed). Drainage tile will be broken, earthen berms will be constructed, and water control structures will be installed to restore the hydrology of both permanent and seasonal wetlands. Restoration work will also result in water storage and help to decrease peak flow events.

18. Discuss how your project conforms to the State Wildlife Action Plan (if applicable).

This proposal helps prevent the loss and degradation of nonforested wetlands and focuses efforts to protect and restore large wetland complexes. The wetland work outlined in this proposal will benefit a myriad of SGCN species identified in the SWAP.

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications


Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)


[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)


 Project Summary


 Project Info

 **Site Info**

 Budget Info

 Review & Approval

 Additional Info

 Application Submission

Site Information

*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

Land Manager

Name: **Barry Christenson** Phone: **507-831-2220**
Organization: **US Fish and Wildlife Service - Windom WMD** Email: **barry_christenson@fws.gov**
Title: **WMD Manager**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **30**
Site Name(s): **ICE Waterfowl Production Area** Click here to [View Site Map](#)
Activity: **Restoration**
Habitat: **Wetland**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **3**
Site Name(s): **Goose Creek Waterfowl Production Area** Click here to [View Site Map](#)
Activity: **Restoration**
Habitat: **Wetland**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **7**
Site Name(s): **Foster Creek Waterfowl Production Area** Click here to [View Site Map](#)
Activity: **Restoration**
Habitat: **Wetland**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **2**
Site Name(s): **Twin Lake Waterfowl Production Area** Click here to [View Site Map](#)
Activity: **Restoration**
Habitat: **Wetland**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **5**
Site Name(s): **Piercef Lake Waterfowl Production Area** Click here to [View Site Map](#)
Activity: **Restoration**
Habitat: **Wetland**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **4**
Site Name(s): **Prescott Waterfowl Production Area** Click here to [View Site Map](#)
Activity: **Restoration**
Habitat: **Wetland**

Site Information

Land Ownership: **Federal** Acres: **2**
Site Name(s): **Pilot Grove Lake** Click here to [View Site Map](#)

**Waterfowl Production
Area**

Activity:

Restoration

Habitat:

Wetland

Site Information

Land Ownership:

Federal

Acres:

2

Site Name(s):

**Wood Lake Waterfowl
Production Area**

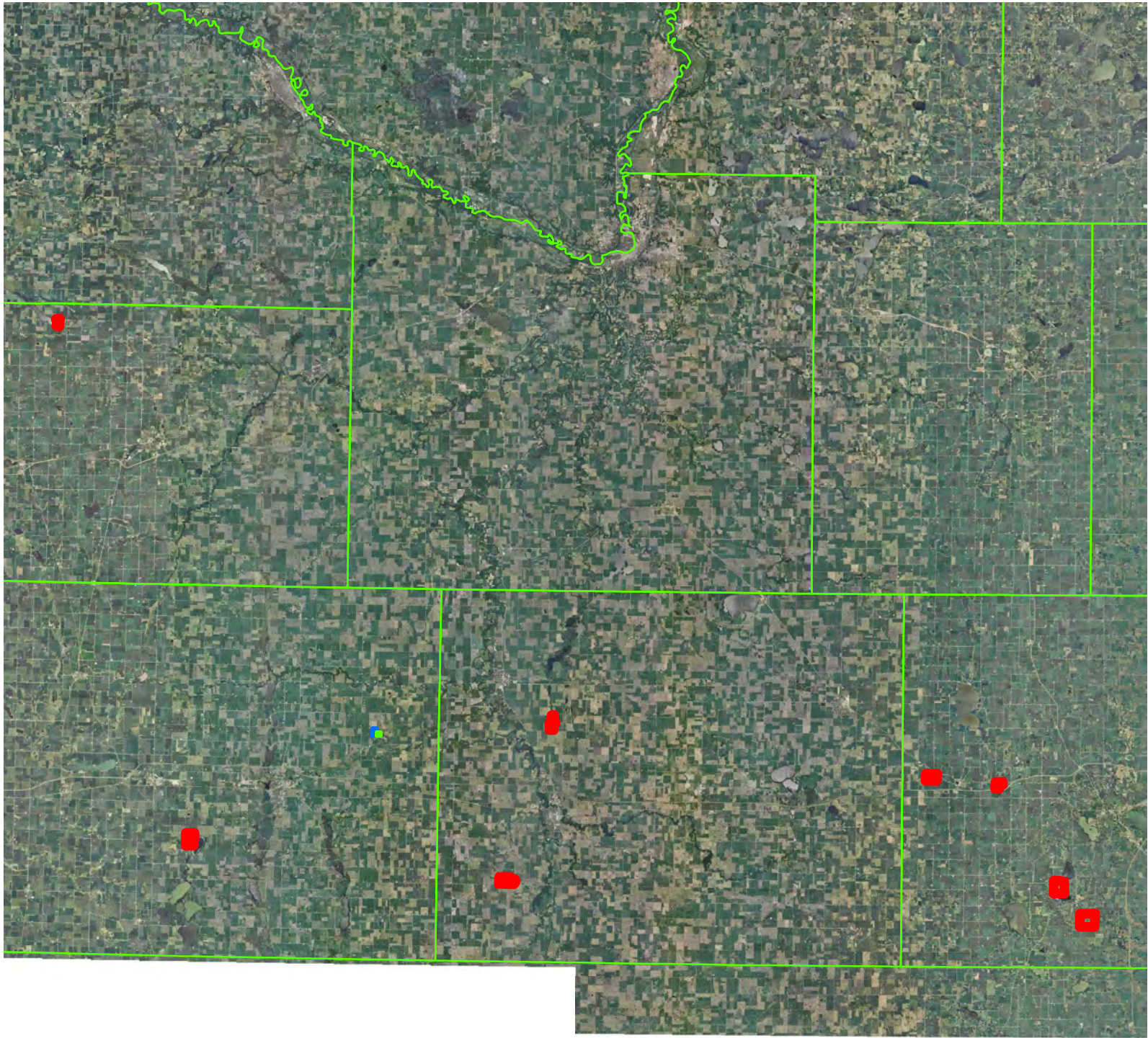
Click here to [View Site Map](#)

Activity:


Restoration

Habitat:

Wetland



Legend

 FY2011 CPL Project Site



CPL FY11-081
Southern Minnesota Wetland Initiative
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Watonwan Counties
LSOHC Prairie Planning Section



Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

Project Summary

Project Info

Site Info

Budget Info

Review & Approval

Additional Info

Application Submission

Budget Information

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	James Koerber	Street Address 1:	1783 Buerkle Circle
Title:	Cheif Financial Officer	Street Address 2:	
Email:	jkoerber@pheasantsforever.org	City:	St. Paul
Phone:	651-209-4913	State:	MN
		Zip Code:	55110

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$2,000		\$2,000		
Contracts	\$43,000	\$5,000	\$48,000		
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition					
Easement Stewardship				In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)				\$0	\$5,000
Professional Services					
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items					
Total:	\$45,000	\$5,000	\$50,000		

Details

Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Scott Roemhildt	Field Rep / Const. Management	\$2,000	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$2,000 Match: \$0	Total: \$2,000		

Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
TBD	Wetland Restoration Earthword	\$43,000	Grant	
TBD	Wetland Restoration Earthwork	\$5,000	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$43,000 Match: \$5,000	Total: \$48,000		

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications


Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)


[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)


 Project Summary


 Project Info

 Site Info

 Budget Info

 **Review & Approval**

 Additional Info

 Application Submission

Project Review and Approval

A Project Review and Approval Form must be completed by each Land Manager named within the Site Info tab and Land Managers only need to complete one form for all sites they manage. Submitting this form fulfills the following requirements:

- Provides the results of the Natural Heritage Database Review,
- Allows for technical review of the project by the Land Manager, and
- Verifies that the public agency approves the work to be done (or acquisition) on land they manage.

You, as the applicant, are responsible for meeting with the Land Manager and receiving a completed Project Review and Approval Form. This form must contain an original signature from the Land Manager and you must upload it below as a PDF.

Each project will require at least one Project Review and Approval form. You may attach up to 4 forms on this page, but if you need more room you may attach up to three more on the "Additional Info" tab. If your project is working under 3 Land Managers, you must receive and submit a form from each manager.

No late Project Review and Approval Forms will be accepted. Applications lacking any necessary approval forms will be deemed incomplete and not considered for funding.

Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)

No **Natural Heritage** elements were found within my project site(s):

Project Review and Approval Forms

[Uploaded Form 1](#)

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Barry Christenson
Agency:	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Title:	Wetland District Manager
Phone:	507-831-2220 x11
Email:	Barry_Christenson@fws.gov

PROJECT INFORMATION:

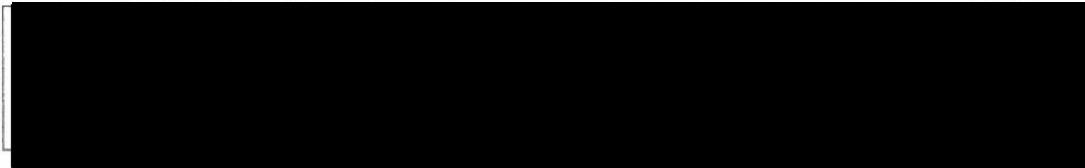
Project Name:	Southern MN Wetland Initiative
Contact Person:	Scott Roemhildt
Organization:	Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Email:	sroemhildt@pheasantsforever.org

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 listed the features below and 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 by Friday, August 27th 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage 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.

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.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

For Acquisitions Only:

- This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
 - I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

Habitat Development	# Acres	Cost/ Acre	Total	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Prairie Grassland					Choose
Forest/ Woody Cover					Choose
Wetland	55	\$909.00	\$50,000.00	CPL, PF, MWA	Both cost and work
Totals					

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Boundary Survey			Choose
Posting/ Fencing			Choose
Wood Routed Sign			Choose
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots			Choose
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
Total			

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:	Barry Christenson	Phone:	507-822-2220 x11
-------	-------------------	--------	------------------

By checking this box and signing 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. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name: Barry Christenson

Date: 9/15/2010

Comments:

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

[Project Summary](#)

[Project Info](#)

[Site Info](#)

[Budget Info](#)

[Review & Approval](#)

[Additional Info](#)

[Application Submission](#)

Additional Information

List any additional details about your project here. Include your organization's history or charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. This is not required.

Founded in Minnesota in 1982, the mission of Pheasants Forever (PF) focuses on protection and enhancement of pheasant and other wildlife habitat through habitat improvement, management, education and legislation. PF's 75 MN chapters have completed thousands of habitat projects affecting more than 242,000 acres of wildlife habitat in the state. Form 990 has been submitted via email due to size limits.

Supplemental Documents

If you / your project does not need to upload any of these documents, you may leave these upload boxes empty.

Upload additional information here, limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc. You may email easement information only if it exceeds size limit while trying to submit the application; all other supporting documentation must be uploaded. Reference CPL Application # and name when emailing (provided upon application submission) or your email will be returned. Send emails to LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us

[Uploaded Document 1](#)

[Uploaded Document 2](#)

[Uploaded Document 3](#)

Financial Information Required for Non-Profit applicants requesting over \$25,000

990 Form or EZ990

[Form 990 / EZ990](#)

Audited Financials, unaudited financials as a second choice

[Financials](#)

Does your organization have a Conflict of Interest Policy?

Yes - Upload Conflict of Interest Policy here:

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

List key staff or members here that will be participating with this project:

Scott Roemhildt - PF Eran Sandquist - PF Joe Pavelko - PF Brad Nylin - MWA Barry Christenson - USFWS Scott Ralston - USFWS

List your organization's Board of Directors with affiliations:

The complete list of Pheasants Forever's Board of Directors has been attached under the supplemental documents section.



**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: Southern Minnesota Wetland Initiative
Applicant: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

When will you make the contribution?

Pheasants Forever, Inc. will make the contribution after the grant period begins if the project is selected for funding.

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?
Does the contribution have a non-state origin?**

Pheasants Forever, Inc. pledges \$3,500 of cash match of 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

Comments

PF is pleased to partner with the partnership included in this proposal to improve waterfowl and other wildlife habitat in Southern Minnesota. We look forward to working with the partners in the future to protect wildlife habitat and will be eagerly working to foster more conservation partnerships in this area of Minnesota.

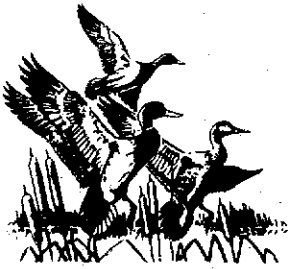
Signature:

Printed Name, Title, and Affiliation:

Joe Parelto, MNW Director of Conservation, PF

Date Signed

9/16/2010



Minnesota Waterfowl Association, INC

901 First Street North, Hopkins, MN 55343 • 952-767-0320 • FAX 952-767-0324

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: Southern Minnesota Wetland Initiative
Applicant: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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

Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Inc.

When will you make the contribution?

Minnesota Waterfowl Association will make the contribution after the grant period begins if the project is selected for funding.

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?
Does the contribution have a non-state origin?**

Minnesota Waterfowl Association pledges \$1,500 of cash match of non-federal 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

Comments

MWA is pleased to partner with the partnership included in this proposal to improve waterfowl and other wildlife habitat in Southern Minnesota. We look forward to working with the partners in the future to protect waterfowl habitat and will be eagerly working to foster more conservation partnerships in this area of Minnesota.

Signature:

Printed Name, Title, and Affiliation:

BRAD Nylin, Executive Director, Minnesota Waterfowl Association

Date Signed:

9/16/10

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

Project Summary

Project Info

Site Info

Budget Info

Review & Approval

Additional Info

Application Submission

Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

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 certify 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 certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.

I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.

I certify that I am aware at least one Project Review and Approval form is required for every application and I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached one form as necessary for each different Land Manager within my project.

I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature:

Scott Roemhildt

Organization / Agency:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Title:

**Regional Field
Representative**

Date:

2010-09-16

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

FY2011 Technical Review Comments and Scoring, Regional and Divisional Directors Comments

Proj ID	Organization Name	Project Name	Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments	Amount Requested	Score	Technical Review Committee Final Rank	Comments	Regional Comments	Meets Regional Plan?	Rank	Region	Division Director's Comments																																																																																																								
81	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Southern Minnesota Wetland Initiative	Are these new WPAs or existing that need work? (seem to be new). Seems like good project.	\$45,000	157	#2	recommended, wetland committee	Feds have excess money for this in Litchfield.	Y	M	4	Lower cost project, plenty of this work to go around. Can't speak to the FWS having the funding for this work, always work to be done.																																																																																																								
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