



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 CAPITAL BUDGET Water Control Structures Governor's Recommendation: \$500,000

It is needed because

Water control structures provide core waterfowl habitat and improve water quality on key shallow lakes and significant wetlands. The Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW) manages over 600 dikes, dams, water control structures and fish barriers across Minnesota. Many of these structures are deteriorating, requiring repair or replacement to maintain existing investments.

Major project elements

This funding improves state water control structures. Potential projects include:

- ◆ Removing and replacing inadequate or failing water control structures,
- ◆ Repairing and improving existing water control structures and dikes,
- ◆ Breaching an existing dike to allow flowage systems to be managed in a natural state,
- ◆ Creating an outlet structure to allow lake habitat restoration, and
- ◆ Constructing dike systems to restore wetlands while protecting adjoining farmland.

Priority-setting

To provide direction and criteria for prioritizing project funding, FAW is developing a water control structure inventory and planning for *Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Wildlife*. Principal emphasis is on state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and designated wildlife lakes. Project prioritizing criteria include:

- ◆ Safety and structure condition,
- ◆ Shallow lakes with high management potential and maximum wildlife benefit, and
- ◆ Projects that build upon existing land protection such as state or federal ownership or conservation easements.

Project locations

Proposed project locations include state WMAs and designated wildlife lakes, such as:

- ◆ Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County
- ◆ Hurricane Lake WMA, Cottonwood County
- ◆ Rice Lake, Faribault County
- ◆ Cottonwood Lake, Blue Earth County
- ◆ Shetek WMA, Murray County
- ◆ Whitewater WMA, Winona County
- ◆ Grayling Marsh WMA, Aitkin County
- ◆ Sedan Pond WMA, Pope County
- ◆ Shaokatan WMA, Lincoln County
- ◆ Sedan WMA, Pope County
- ◆ Pelican Lake, Wright County
- ◆ Lake Christina, Douglas County

Key measures and outcomes

High-quality shallow lake and wetland habitat support healthy and productive waterfowl populations.

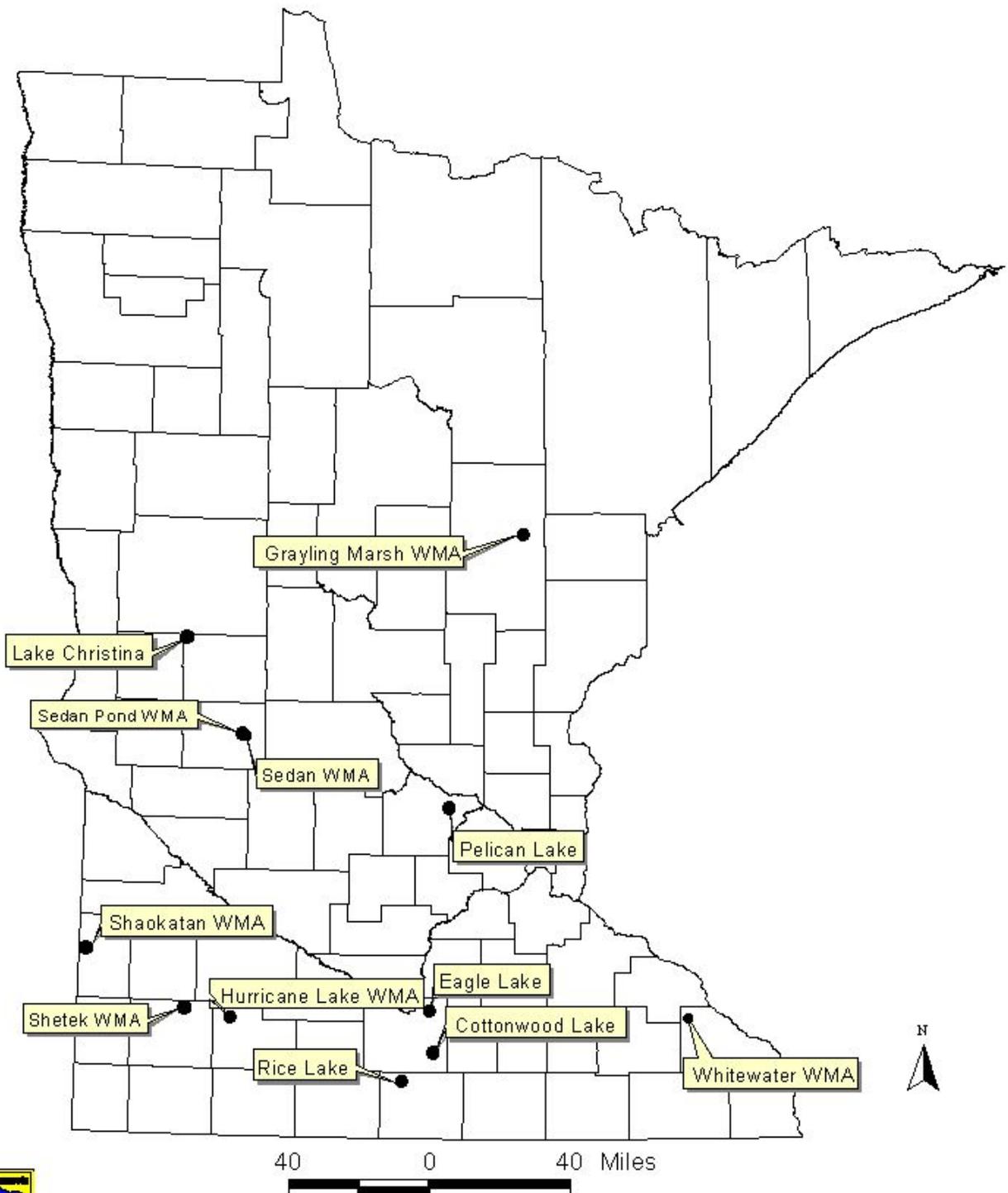
- ◆ Repair, replace, or improve 12 high-priority water control structures throughout the state, improving waterfowl habitat and water quality on up to 13,000 acres.

For further information contact:

Dennis Simon, Wildlife Management Section Chief
Division of Fish and Wildlife
500 Lafayette Road, Box 7
St Paul, MN 55155
(651) 259-5237

Dennis.Simon@dnr.state.mn.us

Wildlife Water Control Systems



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