

**CPL Applications**  
(Total to date: 129)

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

**CPL1000082**

### Spreadsheet

#### Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000082	Street Address 1: 26624 N Tower Rd
Project Name:	Open Landscapes for Grassland Birds	Street Address 2:
Organization Name:	MN Prairie Chicken Society	City: Detroit Lakes
Organization Website:		State: MN
Organization Contact Person:	Greg Hoch	Zip Code: 56501
Contact Email:	hoch@cord.edu	
Contact Phone:	218-443-0476	

#### Location

Primary County:	Clay
Nearest City:	Ulen
Township:	Hagen / Ulen
Project Site Name:	Flickertail and Fuglie WPA
Project Site Land Ownership:	Federal
Other Land Ownership:	

#### Project Information

Primary Activity:	Enhancement
Primary Habitat Type:	Prairie
Total Project Acres:	200
Total Project Sites:	2
Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$45000
Total Match Amount:	\$5000
Total Project Cost:	\$50000
Project Completion Date:	06/2012 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: Trees are one of the largest threats to prairie nesting birds after habitat loss. Some birds simply avoid grasslands with the visual obstruction of trees on the horizon. Trees also provide perches and dens for numerous species of nest predators. Removing trees from native prairie will help not only our namesake bird, the greater prairie chicken, but should also help numerous other species of birds and wildlife. Because 99% of Minnesota's prairies have been lost, most of these species are classified as SGCN by the DNR and watch lists from NGOs and the USFWS. By removing the trees, this project will also help numerous species of plants by increasing the light availability on the ground.

#### 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: Open Lands for Grassland Birds  
Organization: MN Prairie Chicken Society  
Organization contact person (Project Manager): Greg Hoch

### Project information

Project site: Flickertail WPA  
Project site land manager Legal : T142 R45 S35 Q  
or easement holder: USFWS  
Private land owner County: Clay  
(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: 200 ☒ Acres ☐ Miles ☐ Feet ☐ Structures ☐ Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site: Fuglie WPA  
Project site land manager Legal : T142 R44 S30 Q  
or easement holder: USFWS  
Private land owner County: Clay  
(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: 200 ☒ Acres ☐ Miles ☐ Feet ☐ Structures ☐ Wetlands

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

Project site:  
Project site land manager Legal : T R S Q  
or easement holder:  
Private land owner County:  
(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 timeline:**

Time frame	Goal	Time frame	Goal
winter 2011	tree removal		

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

Trees encroaching into open grassland landscapes is one of the many threats to grassland nesting birds, including prairie chickens, pheasants, waterfowl, and songbirds. Tree branches provide perches for hawks, owls, and crows. The base of the trees provide dens for mammalian nest predators. Some species of birds will avoid nesting in grasslands simply due to the visual obstruction of trees. Numerous studies have reported lowered nest success, higher nest predation, and grassland avoidance by all guilds of grassland nesting birds as a result of woody vegetation encroachment.

The Fuglie/Flickertail WPAs are part of a larger complex that also encompasses the Ulen WMA and several tracts of conservation easements as well as tracts enrolled in CRP/WRP. This area, in combination with the Felton Prairie Complex is one of the strongholds in the state for the greater prairie chicken as well as numerous other grassland nesting birds such as upland sandpipers, and marbled godwits. This area is part of the Felton Area Important Bird Area (IBA). These WPAs and WMAs also represent one of the few remaining populations of western prairie fringed orchid (WPFO) in the state and are home several other rare plant species. Species currently in the Natural Heritage database include WPFO, small white ladies' slipper, Poweshiek skipper, Henslow's sparrow, and yellow rail. All of these species are grassland dependent species and should benefit from the removal of trees from this property.

The work proposed in this project should benefit numerous species of grassland nesting birds. By removing the tree canopy, it should also help many of the plants growing in this tract of native prairie. While these project will not be large enough to remove all the trees on the WPAs, it is part of a larger effort on the landscape. In the past two years USFWS has spent almost \$250,000 removing trees on adjacent property to the east. The DNR has already removed a significant number of trees on the adjacent WMA and have written proposals to remove even more. In combination, these efforts will create a significant amount of open grassland habitat.

The areas to be treated consist of several small clusters of trees as well as scattered isolated trees.

As match, USFWS in collaboration with MPCS members will conduct surveys of grassland birds before and after the management actions to monitor the effects of tree removal on the grassland bird diversity and abundance.

**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.

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

**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?

The long-term maintenance of the project will include burning. The WPAs in this project are already integrated into the Detroit Lakes WMD burn program. We will time the fires over the next 2-3 years to remove any slash piles left over from the work.

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

The USFWS will conduct all management treatment after the tree removal is finished.

- 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: Greg Hoch	Organization/ Agency: MN Prairie Chicken Society
Title: Bd Member	Date: 11/2/09

**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:	Open lands for grassland birds	Organization:	MPCS
Contact Person:	Greg Hoch		
Email:	hoch@cord.edu	Daytime Phone:	218-443-0476

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](mailto: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:

- ☒ 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
-------	-------------

Comments:

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:	Open Landscapes for grassland birds
Organization:	Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Greg Hoch

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
Personnel				
Contracts	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00		\$45,000.00
Grant Administration				
Administration/ Environmental Compliance				
Fee Acquisition				
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Travel				
Additional Budget items				
Total				

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

**Personnel Details:**

Name	Title	Amount

**Contract Details:**

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount
pending funding bids will be placed through standard IDIQ process	tree removal	\$45,000.00

**Grant Administration:**

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount

**Administration/ Environmental Compliance**

Activity	Description	Amount

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

--

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:**

Item	Use	Amount

**Travel Details:**

Miles	Purpose	Amount

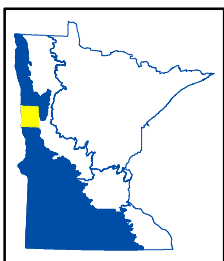
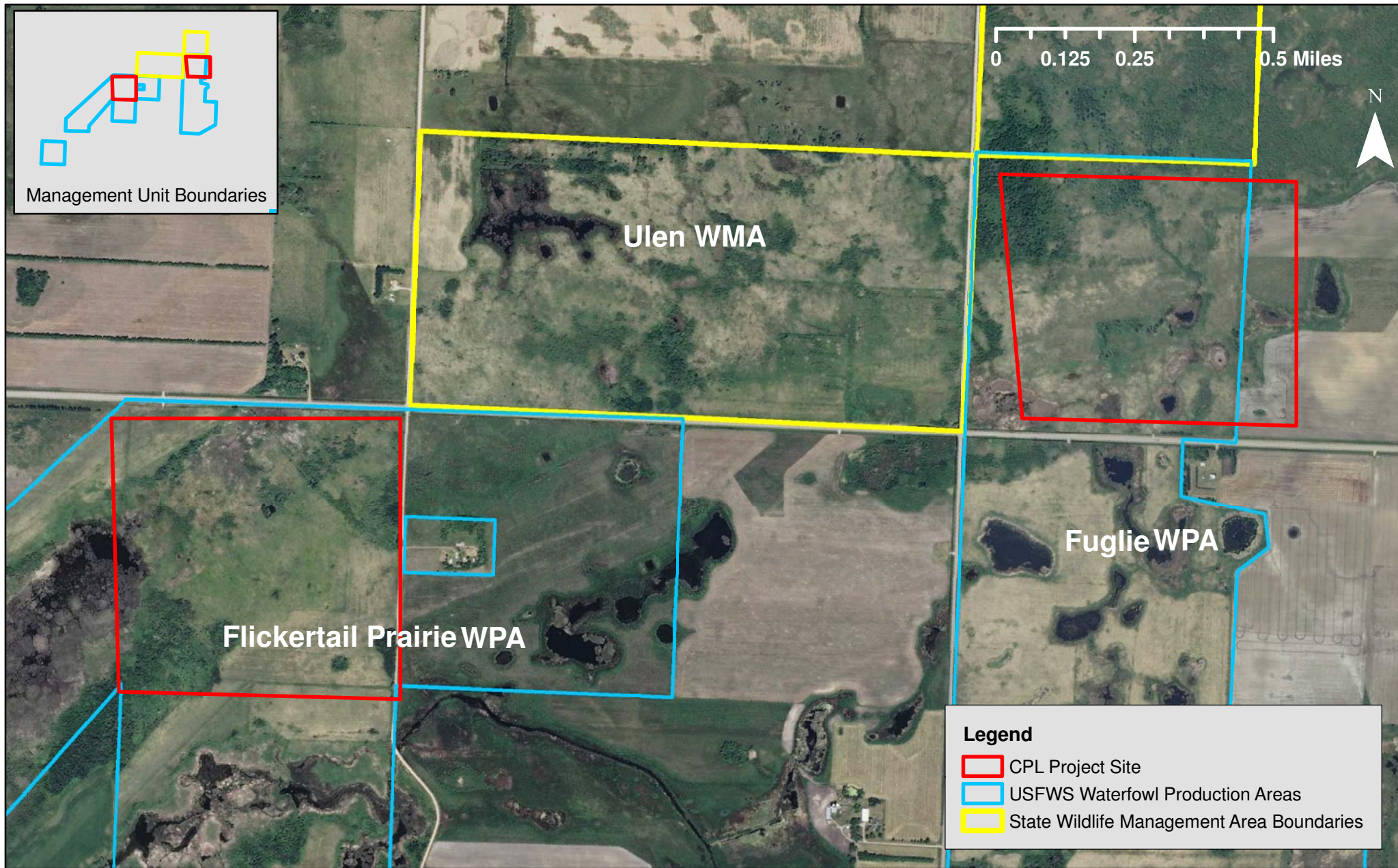
**Additional Budget Items Details:**

**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
USFWS	Oversight of activities			\$2,000.00
USFWS	monitoring wildlife responses to activities			\$3,000.00

Matching description/ comments: if needed

USFWS will provide oversight of contractors. In addition, USFWS biologists in coordination with MPCs members will establish bird monitoring transects within each study area. Biologists, along with student interns and MPCs members, will conduct diversity and abundance surveys in the year before and after management activities.



CPL100-082  
Open Landscapes for Grassland Birds  
Clay County, LSOHC Prairie Planning Section

