

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

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

CPL1000117

[Spreadsheet](#)

Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000117	Street Address 1:	211 Holmes Street West
Project Name:	Rice Lake Wetland Restoration - Frank WMA Acquisition	Street Address 2:	Wells-Fargo Bldg, Suite 201
Organization Name:	Pelican River Watershed District	City:	Detroit Lakes
Organization Website:	www.prwd.org	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Tera L. Guetter, Administrator	Zip Code:	56501
Contact Email:	Tera.Guetter@arvig.net		
Contact Phone:	(218) 846-0436		

Location

Primary County: Becker
Nearest City: Detroit Lakes
Township: Detroit
Project Site Name: Frank WMA Acquisition -wetland resto
Project Site Land Ownership: State, Local, and Private
Other Land Ownership:

Project Information

Primary Activity: Acquisition

Primary Habitat Type: Wetland

Total Project Acres: 50

Total Project Sites: 2

Total Grant Amount Requested: \$251000

Total Match Amount: \$28000

Total Project Cost: \$279000

Project Completion Date: 12/2010 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: Funding is requested for two parcel acquisitions by the Pelican River Watershed District and subsequent conveyance to the MN DNR as part of the Frank Wildlife Management Area. The 49.7 acre acquisition is part of a larger multipurpose project, the restoration of the Rice Lake Wetland. Through restoring and stabilizing the water level of Rice Lake by 1.5 ft, the restoration project will provide over 400 acres of additional enhanced wetland area for the management of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, as well as provide significant water quality improvements for downstream recreational lakes (Big/Little Detroit, Sallie, Melissa).

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: Rice Lake Wetland Restoration-Frank WMA Acquisition

Organization: Pelican River Watershed District

Organization contact person (Project Manager): Tera L. Guetter, Administrator

Project information

Project site: Rice Lake Wetland Restoration - Frank WMA Acquisition

Project site land manager Legal : T139 R41W S14 QNW

or easement holder: Pelican River Watershed District to convey to MN DNR Wildlife

Private land owner County: Becker

(if applicable): Patrick Onstad

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

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

Activity quantity: 39.6 ☒ Acres ☐ Miles ☐ Feet ☐ Structures ☐ Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site: Rice Lake Wetland Restoration - Frank WMA Acquisition

Project site land manager Legal : T139 R41W S11 QSE

or easement holder: Pelican River Watershed District to convey to MN DNR Wildlife

Private land owner County: Becker

(if applicable): Darrel and Brenda Siewert

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

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

Activity quantity: 10.1 ☒ 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
Jan 2010	Property Appraisals		
Feb 2010	Purchase Options signed		
Feb 2010	Legal survey		
March 2010	Property Closing		
April 2010 - July 2011	Develop and implement the IDP for WMA's		
December 2011	Convey Property to DNR FRANK WMA		

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

This funding application is for the fee title acquisition of two private parcels by the Pelican River Watershed District and subsequent conveyance to the MN DNR as part of the Frank Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The 49.7 acre acquisition is part of a larger multipurpose project, the restoration of the Rice Lake Wetland. Through restoring and stabilizing the water level of Rice Lake by 1.5 ft, the restoration project will provide over 400 acres of additional enhanced wetland area for the management of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, as well as provide significant water quality improvements for downstream recreational lakes (Big/Little Detroit, Sallie, Melissa). Unlike the other affected private properties for which flowage easements were obtained, nearly all of the land in these two targeted properties is required for the restored water levels that will interfere with current property use. The District has received funding assistance from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service-Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the MPCA Clean Water Partnership program for flowage easements, however, the District is short of the necessary funds for obtaining all of the required flowage rights for the project. By the acquisition of these parcels, the District will not only gain the necessary flowage rights for the project, but also aid the DNR in acquiring land to increase critical wildlife habitat.

Within the restoration area there are approximately 647 acres of MN State land [338 acres Frank Wildlife Management Area; 309 acres meandered Rice Lake basin (03-394P)], 145 acres of City of Detroit Lakes land, and 586 acres of private land affected by the project totaling 1,378 acres. The total project cost to restore Rice Lake is estimated at \$ 3.0 Million (2009 figures) for land easements/acquisition, engineering, road improvements, and the installation of the restoration control structure and the secondary down-stream wetland control structure. As of October 2009, approximately 56 acres of flowage easements on private lands have been acquired, with an additional 170 acres of signed WRP applications. Currently we are working with the remaining WRP- eligible parcels for enrollment. It is estimated the project construction will be completed by the end of 2013 if all land/flowage rights are completed by December 2011. The District will use "all available methods" to obtain land/easement rights for this project. The construction costs will be funded through the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program.

BENEFITS

The overall project goals are to : (1) stabilize Rice Lake water levels to a restored level of 1350 MSL , an increase of 1.5 feet above drained water levels; and (2) add 195 acres of secondary wetlands below the Rice Lake wetland basin resulting in an increase of 595 acres of enhanced wetland base flow after project completion . The project will enhance habitat for all wetland wildlife species by maintaining a diversity of cover including a mix of dense native wetland vegetation and open water, in addition to providing significant water quality benefits (40-60% phosphorus reductions) to downstream recreational waterbodies.

Priority wildlife wetland species include mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, trumpeter swans, egrets, bitterns, terns, marsh wrens and a myriad other watchable song bird species. Due to the 1920 partial drainage of Rice Lake and

the long-term maintenance of reduced water levels of this lake basin, wetland wildlife populations decreased from pre-ditched populations. Since there have been no recent DNR wildlife population surveys on this wetland complex, we do not know what populations presently exist nor can we project desired future densities. Increases in wetland acreage and stability of water levels are expected to result in native wildlife species population increases to levels approaching those prior to the ditching activities in 1920.

Enhance State owned WMAs. The Frank WMA is located around the fringes of the 309 acre meandered water body called Rice Lake. These two parcel acquisitions are adjacent to and will become part of the existing Frank WMA adding 49.7 acres to the existing 338 acre site.

Public Access. The Frank WMA is open to public hunting, trapping, and compatible wildlife uses. The acquisition of an additional 49.7 acres will provide greater public access opportunities. Hunting options include: deer, small game, and waterfowl. Wildlife viewing opportunities include wetland and prairie wildlife.

Partnerships. The DNR Frank WMA is part of the Rice Lake Wetland Restoration project area. Federal, state, and local agencies (ACOE, NRCS, BWSR, DNR, MPCA, SWCD, City of Detroit Lakes, and PRWD) are each represented on the project technical committee. PRWD has contractual relationships with the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) to obtain project flowage easements for eligible properties and with MPCA's Clean Water Partnership loan monies (\$450,000) to obtain easements for properties which do not qualify for the WRP program. However, as stated above, the District is short of the necessary funding to complete the flowage rights through easements or acquisition. The NRCS WRP program will fund the construction of the project. This includes the installation of the restoration control structure and the secondary down-stream wetland control structure, two ditch plugs, access roads to structures, ditch spoil bank leveling, raising Anchor Road and installing new box culverts under the road for a construction total of \$1.2 to 2.0 million. In addition to the NRCS (Small Watershed Assistance and WRP) program assistance, the District utilized MPCA CWP grant funds (\$50,000) to purchase flowage easements on 7 parcels and to obtain options to purchase easements on 4 parcels which was completed in June 2009. The District is currently working with NRCS and MN DNR to develop a "Memorandum of Understanding Agreement", which outlines work and financial responsibility for all project partners. The District continues to meet with affected landowners to review and finalize flowage easements necessary for construction of the project.

Operations. Long-term operations and maintenance costs for the Frank WMA acquisition will continue under the management of the MN DNR Wildlife. The Pelican River Watershed District will fund future operations and maintenance costs for the water level controls.

Taxes. Reformulated DNR P.I.L.T. payments would be used for property tax implications, these payments would be comparable to existing land property tax's. The PRWD will seek County Board approval of all private parcels to be acquired.

Water Quality Considerations. Wetlands that have been hydrologically altered and drained, such as the Rice Lake Wetland, are changed from their original wetland function acting as nutrient sinks and instead become excessive nutrient sources. The Rice Lake Wetland has been documented (PRWD monitoring 1980 - 2009) to be the primary source of phosphorus export into downstream Detroit Lake. The Rice Lake Restoration Project has a water quality goal to reduce phosphorus loading exports from the wetland by 40-60% (approximately 1,600 kg/year).

Other considerations. The grant application for WMA acquisitions involves willing sellers for two parcels required to obtain full control of areas subject to restored water levels by the project. This fee acquisition will allow wetland restoration, management, and protection in perpetuity. The PRWD and DNR Wildlife manager have had recent discussions with the city of Detroit Lakes regarding acquiring an additional 138 acres for the FRANK WMA. The District will follow the DNR's Third Party Land Acquisition Procedures; perform appraisals to Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice standards, conduct land surveys to meet DNR's General Requirements for Land Surveys, and bring the parcels up to the DNR's Development Standards for WMA's prior to being conveyed. Native prairie grasses/forbes will be used to restore the Frank WMA parcel acquisitions.

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.

WMA IDP Implementation Standards.

Develop and submit to DNR Regional Manager for approval the Initial Development Plan (IDP) for the two private parcel acquisitions to be conveyed to the DNR Frank WMAs. Necessary work to be completed prior to the conveyance includes

1. Boundary Surveys; \$ 2,000 X 2 parcels = \$4,000
2. Boundary Signing; 30 signs for 2 parcels ; 2 man-days install = \$ 500
3. Wetland Access - \$1,000
4. Parking Lot; - gravel \$1,500
5. Information signs - \$ 3,000 interpretive signage
6. Building/Well/Septic System Clean Up = \$10,000
7. Habitat Development (Native Prairie Restoration) - \$6,000
- 8.Cultural and Natural Resource Review - N/A

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

A. Property Acquisition:

1. Appraisals for the two parcels
2. Acquisition negotiations;
4. Acquisition/legal work
5. Recording the Deed

B. Implementing the IDP Requirements

C. Convey property to DNR Wildlife

Long Term Management Work - Conducted by the MN DNR Wildlife as part of the Frank WMA management plan.

2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:

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

The upland acreage manager will be the DNR Wildlife manager. The wetland manager, including the water control structure will be the Pelican River Watershed District.

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

The upland acreage manager will be the DNR Wildlife manager. The wetland manager, including the water control structure will be the Pelican River Watershed District

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

The upland acreage manager will be the DNR Wildlife manager and will be funded through the DNR WMA operations budget (not expected to be substantial). The wetland manager, including the water control structure will be the Pelican River Watershed District and will fund any required maintenance work.

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

No, the CPL funds will not supplant existing funding.

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: Tera L. Guetter	Organization/ Agency: Pelican River Watershed District
Title: Administrator	Date: November 3, 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

REVIEWER INFORMATION

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Earl N. Johnson		
Title:	Area Wildlife Manager	Date of meeting:	11/3/09
Phone:	218-846-8374	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	Earl.N.Johnson@state.mn.us	(assigned by agency, optional)	

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Rice Lake Restoration - Frank WMA Acquis	Organization:	Pelican River Watershed Distr
Contact Person:	Tera L. Guetter		
Email:	tera.guetter@arvig.net	Daytime Phone:	218-846-0436

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:

	No
adverse affects are expected to Natural Heritage Elements.	

- ☐ 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 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:	Earl N. Johnson	Phone:	218-846-8374
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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:	Earl N. Johnson
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Comments: **The proposed project has been contemplated but considered "impossible" since 1985 and I am excited to be involved with this multi-agency project to restore the wildlife habitat of Rice Lake within the Frank WMA. It is equally exciting to help insure the long term values of the downstream recreational lakes. I expect that this project will have precedent setting character as one considers the impact of drained or altered wetlands upon water quality contributed to recreational lakes throughout MN as well as the remainder of the USA.**

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:	Rice Lake Wetland Restoration - Frank WMA Acquisition
Organization:	Pelican River Watershed District
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Tera L. Guetter, Administrator

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				
Administration/ Environmental Compliance				
Fee Acquisition	\$251,000.00			\$251,000.00
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Travel				
Additional Budget items				
Total	\$ 251,000			\$251,000.00

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

Administration/ Environmental Compliance

Activity	Description	Amount

Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:

Property purchase price: Seiwert Property - \$184,000 ; Onstad Property- \$54,000 subject to change based upon DNR approved appraisal.

TOTAL PROPERTY PURCHASE PRICE =	\$238,000
APPRAISAL \$ 3,500 X 2 =	\$7,000
LAND SURVEY \$ 2,000 x 2=	\$4,000
ATTORNEY FEES (Acquisition) \$1,500 x 2=	\$3,000
ABSTRACT /RECORDING FEES \$500 x 2 =	\$1,000
WMA IDP Implementation	\$26,000
TOTAL ACQUISITION AMOUNT =	\$ 279,000
Grant Request = \$ 251,000	
PRWD Cash Match = \$ 28,000	

WMA IDP Implementation Standards.

Develop and submit to DNR Regional Manager for approval the Initial Development Plan (IDP) for the two private parcel acquisitions to be conveyed to the DNR Frank WMAs. Necessary work to be completed prior to the conveyance includes

1. Boundary Surveys; \$ 2,000 X 2 parcels = \$4,000
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3. Wetland Access - \$1,000
4. Parking Lot; - gravel \$1,500
5. Information signs - \$ 3,000 interpretive signage
6. Building/Well/Septic System Clean Up = \$10,000
7. Habitat Development (Native Prairie Restoration) - \$6,000
- 8.Cultural and Natural Resource Review - N/A

Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:

Item	Use	Amount

Travel Details:

Miles	Purpose	Amount

Additional Budget Items Details:

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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
Pelican River Watershed District	Grant Cash Match for the Frank WMA parcel acquisition according to DNR WMA standards	1	28,000	\$28,000.00
NRCS -WRP	Flowage Easements/Project Construction	1	2,000,000	\$2,000,000.00
MPCA Loans/PRWD	Flowage Easements	1	450,000	\$450,000.00

Matching description/ comments: if needed

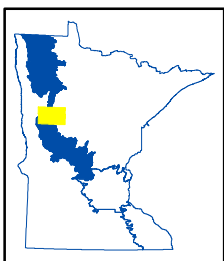
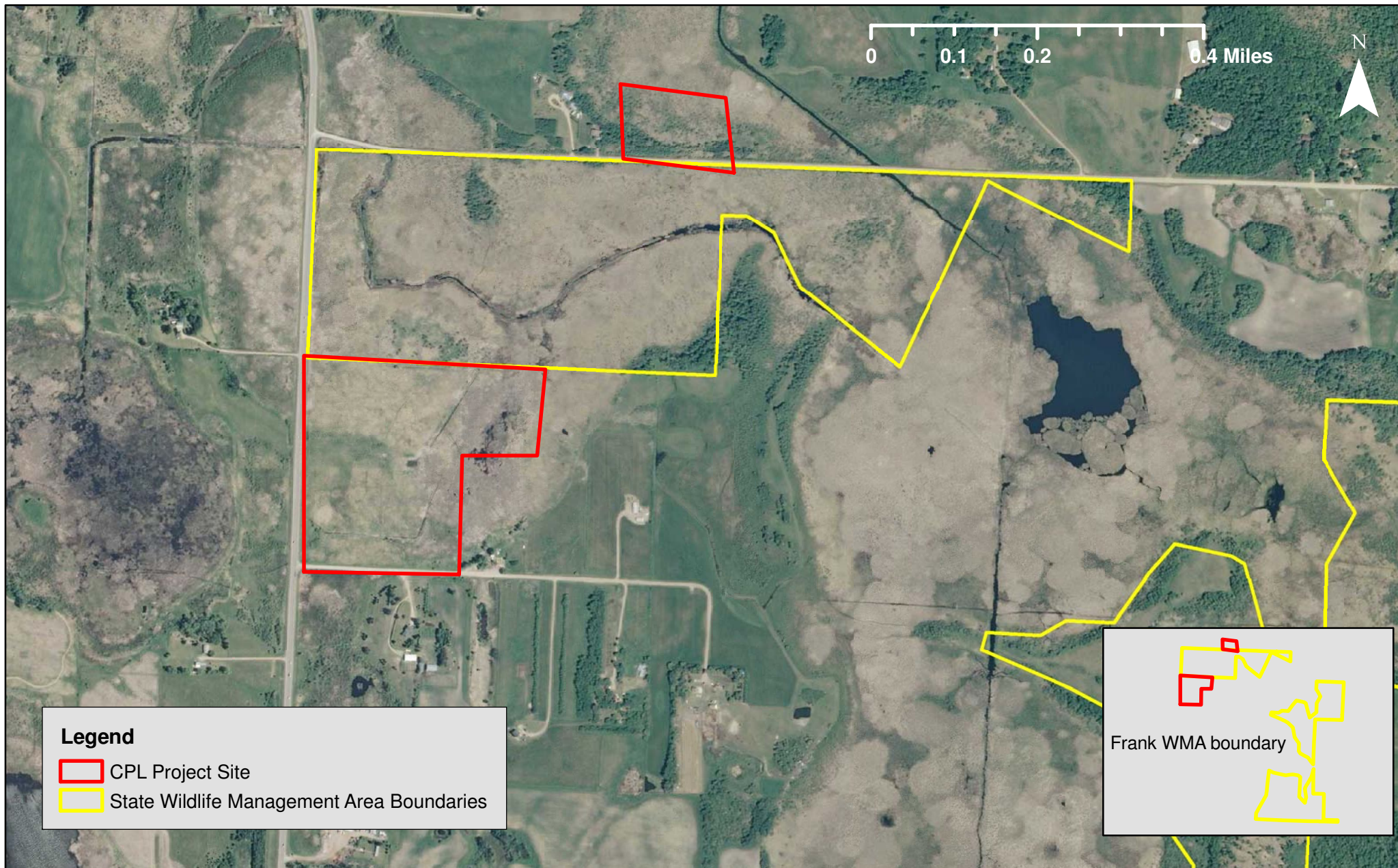
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ABSTRACT /RECORDING FEES \$500 x 2 =	\$1,000
WMA IDP Standards Implementation	\$26,000
TOTAL ACQUISITION AMOUNT =	\$ 279,000
Grant Request = \$ 251,000	
PRWD Cash Match = \$ 28,000	

WMA Implementation Standards.

Develop and submit to DNR Regional Manager for approval the Initial Development Plan (IDP) for the two private parcel acquisitions to be conveyed to the DNR Frank WMAs. Necessary work to be completed prior to the conveyance includes

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6. Building/Well/Septic System Clean Up = \$10,000
7. Habitat Development (Native Prairie Restoration) - \$6,000
- 8.Cultural and Natural Resource Review - N/A

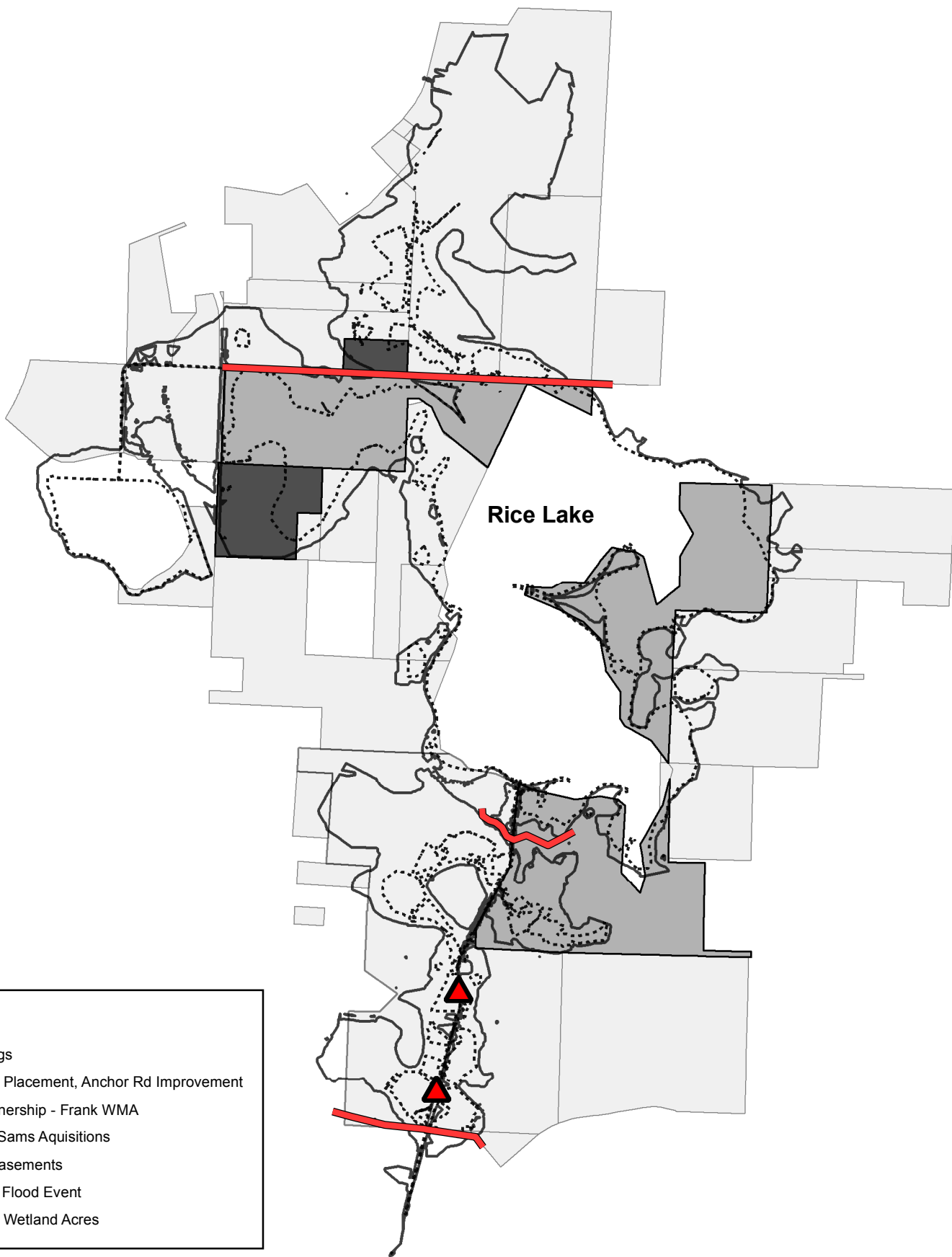


CPL100-117

Rice Lake Wetland Restoration - Frank WMA Acquisition

Becker County, LSOHC Forest/Prairie Transition Planning Section





UPRW Project

Flow Conditions

Structure Placements

Easements

0 700 1,400 2,800 4,200 5,600 Feet



Map made by Pelican River Watershed District with data collected by NRCS for use as supplemental material in conjunction with Rice Lake project landowner packets.

Disclaimer

"Maps are for graphical purposes only. They do not represent a legal survey. While every effort has been made to ensure that these data are accurate and reliable within the limits of the current state of the art, NRCS cannot assume liability for any damages caused by any errors or omissions in the data, nor as a result of the failure of the data to function on a particular system. NRCS makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor does the fact of distribution constitute such a warranty."