

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Duck Action Plan

2025–2030

Executive Summary

The restoration, protection, and enhancement of duck habitat is a vital part of the Minnesota DNR's mission. Abundant duck populations provide recreational opportunities for hunters and birdwatchers, and the participants in these activities help bolster rural economies in Minnesota and throughout the Flyways. Participating in hunting and bird watching can also help bring families together and connect people to the land. In addition, duck habitat supports many other species and provides floodwater storage, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, and sediment filtration that improves the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

The DNR developed this Duck Action Plan (Plan) to prioritize the work done in pursuit of these benefits. This Plan will guide the DNR's focus on funding and conservation efforts, enhancing and developing partnerships, improving communication about ducks and their habitat, and conducting research and monitoring that foster Minnesotans' stewardship of duck populations and habitat. The Plan identifies the goals, objectives, and strategies the DNR will implement during the next five years. Additionally, the Plan identifies strategic issues that influence duck conservation. The scope includes both ducks that breed in Minnesota and those that stop in Minnesota during spring and fall migration.

The DNR's Role

The DNR is a leader in duck habitat and population management in Minnesota. Implementing this Plan will involve dedication to collaborative work with conservation partners, both on public and private lands. The DNR commits to management, research, and monitoring in accordance with the department's mission.

The DNR's 2025-2030 Duck Action Plan goals are to:

1. Increase the amount of protected wetland and associated upland habitat for ducks.
2. Maintain, enhance, and restore wetland, grassland, and forest habitat for ducks.
3. Increase opportunities for and participation in outdoor recreation related to ducks and their habitat.
4. Increase public awareness and appreciation of wetland conservation for ducks and people.

In addition to working closely with partners to implement this Plan, the DNR will annually report progress and successes using specific performance indicators identified in the Plan.

Introduction

Duck Management Vision

Abundant and quality wetland, grassland, and forest habitat provides the foundation for strong Minnesota duck populations, which results in excellent duck hunting and wildlife viewing. Other wildlife and pollinator species also benefit from diverse and productive wetlands and associated upland habitat. Beyond wildlife habitat, wetlands and associated upland habitat help secure societal benefits, including water storage, groundwater recharge, sediment and pollutant filtration, and carbon sequestration. Minnesotans recognize the breadth of benefits from duck habitat conservation and support actions that benefit duck management.

Purpose of Plan

This five-year Duck Action Plan will help the DNR focus funding and conservation efforts, enhance existing and develop new partnerships, and conduct research and monitoring that improves our collective understanding and stewardship of ducks and their habitats.

The 2025-2030 Duck Action Plan builds upon the DNR's 50-year Long-Range Duck Recovery Plan and 2020-2023 Duck Action Plan. This Duck Action Plan is complementary to other DNR plans and identifies issues influencing duck habitat and populations. It also helps agency staff coordinate with conservation partners and informs the public and those who fund conservation work by identifying the DNR's goals, objectives, and strategies over the next five years.

Plan Development

The DNR provided the public with the opportunity to comment on the past plan and ideas for the development of the 2025-2030 Duck and Pheasant Action Plans. The DNR also hosted two scoping workshops in the spring and summer of 2024 to collect input from conservation partners for both the Duck and Pheasant Action Plans. The ideas collected at these meetings, input gathered from the public, as well as the plans mentioned above are the basis for the 2025-2030 Duck and Pheasant Action Plans. The DNR conducted ongoing engagement with Tribal Nations and partner organizations and gathered public comment on draft versions of the Plan and analysis from technical experts. The DNR developed the 2025-2030 Duck and Pheasant Action Plans in parallel, recognizing the importance of wetland and associated upland habitat for ducks and pheasants alike.

Background and Current Conditions

Ducks are migratory and their abundance across North America is influenced by multiple factors including climate, precipitation, and land-use. Ultimately, the amount and quality of wetland, grassland and forest habitats drive continental duck populations, especially during the breeding season. The abundance of water is also extremely important in where and how many ducks settle across the landscape.

Duck habitat management is complicated because each species has different habitat requirements for breeding and migration. For example, blue-winged teal rely on seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands embedded in Minnesota's prairie and agricultural region while common goldeneyes require cavity trees and large lakes in the forested part of the state. Minnesota's breeding populations of ducks have fluctuated over time as habitat quality and quantity has changed. Agricultural programs that set aside grassland habitat like the Soil Bank in the 1956 Farm Bill, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the 1985 Farm Bill, the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, have benefited nesting waterfowl in Minnesota. CRP acres have ebbed and flowed over time, but recently have seen significant declines. From 2007-2022 Minnesota lost 833,000 acres of CRP, and with it a loss of upland habitat necessary for nesting.

In addition to grasslands, other wetland-associated uplands provide critical nesting habitat and require protection, restoration, and enhancement efforts. Increasing development along lakes and wetlands in Minnesota reduces nesting habitat for ducks. While acres of deepwater wetlands in Minnesota are showing moderate gains in recent years, counts of the small temporary and seasonal 'pothole' wetlands that give the

Prairie Pothole region its name continue to decline. These prairie pothole wetlands are critical for breeding ducks, providing most of the food and cover needed to successfully nest and raise a brood of ducklings.

Abundant duck populations are important to hunters, birdwatchers, and others. Estimated numbers of breeding mallards over the last 20 years, according to the Minnesota May Waterfowl Survey, are relatively stable. Populations of blue-winged teal and other ducks have varied more than mallards throughout the survey. Duck hunters in Minnesota have reported relatively high satisfaction in recent years. Despite this high satisfaction, the number of Minnesota duck hunters continues to decline, in line with national trends.

DNR Duck Management

Minnesota waterfowl management promotes abundant duck populations, the high-quality habitat they need, clean water and soil conservation benefits, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Many other species of wildlife also benefit from duck habitat management. Because waterfowl are migratory and many only spend a short period in Minnesota, the DNR also works closely with and supports conservation efforts along the Mississippi Flyway and throughout the region.

Ducks require a variety of habitat components throughout the year, and the scope of DNR management includes both ducks that breed in Minnesota and those that stop in Minnesota during migration. Therefore, management focuses on providing high quality habitat for nesting, brood rearing, and migration. Breeding ducks on the prairies are dependent on the abundance of high-quality wetlands, especially habitat complexes that provide a range of wetland types embedded in sufficient upland nesting habitat. Duck populations increase when more habitat complexes are available on the landscape. The DNR protects, restores, and enhances wetland and associated upland habitat within an extensive state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Aquatic Management Area (AMA) system.

Outside the prairie portion of Minnesota, wetlands are more permanent, although seasonal wetlands still play an important role. Wild rice lakes, slow moving streams, shallow areas of deeper lakes, and vernal ponds, along with nesting uplands and nesting cavities in trees, are also important habitat components for ducks.

DNR duck habitat management includes shallow lake and wetland drawdowns, and vegetation management such as invasive cattail control, prescribed fire, tree removal, haying, and conservation grazing. The DNR also restores habitat on degraded sites and acquires new parcels for the WMA/AMA system. Permanent protection and continued enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands is critical to ensure these important habitat and populations exist into the future.

The DNR participates in technical committees with biologists from Minnesota and other states and provinces to stay up to date on current duck management programs and collaborate on research.

Work by the DNR to benefit ducks and their habitat supports the DNR's mission "to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life."

This work is enabled by statute 97A.045, which states,

“The commissioner shall do all things the commissioner determines are necessary to preserve, protect, and propagate desirable species of wild animals. The commissioner shall make special provisions for the management of fish and wildlife to ensure recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters.”

In brief, work done by the DNR to benefit duck populations falls within the following three broad categories:

- 1) **Duck population management**, which includes:
 - Population monitoring and research
 - Disease surveillance and management
 - Surveys of hunters
 - Coordination with Tribal Nations
 - Supporting the development of federal frameworks which apply to all states in the Mississippi Flyway, the bird migration route that includes Minnesota
 - Development of state hunting regulations

- 2) **Habitat management**, which includes:
 - Long-term habitat protection through fee-title acquisition and conservation easement programs
 - Enhancement and maintenance of existing duck habitat
 - Restoration of drained or developed wetlands to restore wetland functions
 - Restoration and enhancement of associated upland habitat
 - Research and monitoring to inform wetland habitat management decisions
 - Financial support of Farm Bill Assistance Partnership staff to deliver voluntary private lands conservation
 - Continuing and strengthening partnerships with non-government organizations that promote waterfowl conservation

- 3) **Promotion of duck-related recreation and benefits of ducks and their habitat**, which includes:
 - Delivering and supporting programs to promote the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of duck hunters
 - Promoting duck management benefits to ecosystems and society

Strategic Considerations

The DNR has identified several important considerations that will influence the success of the 2025-2030 Duck Action Plan.

- *Legacy amendment funding.* The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, which Minnesota voters passed in 2008, designates a portion of sales tax to be allocated toward various conservation and arts initiatives through 2034. Thirty-three percent of these revenues go to the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). The OHF specifically supports habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement. OHF provides over \$175 million annually in legislative appropriations for critical habitat work. These funds are often leveraged by the DNR for federal aid match and by partners through the North American Wetlands

Conservation Act, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Joint Venture funding, as well as other one-time state and federal appropriations. This funding is vital for habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement throughout the duck range. This is a key time in Minnesota to implement priority conservation actions.

- *Private lands and the need for partnerships.* Most of the land in Minnesota's grassland and forest transition regions are privately owned; Minnesota's forested region is a patchwork of private, public, and tribal ownerships; and 833,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) were lost in Minnesota between 2007 and 2022. Therefore, private land stewardship is critical to conserving ducks and their habitat. Although local DNR staff engage with private landowners in the course of our work, other agencies and organizations are better positioned to influence conservation on private lands. The DNR will enhance its partnerships and coordination to support private lands work.
- *Continued loss and degradation of habitat.* As Minnesota's human population grows, pressures for land use and development increase. Grasslands and wetlands have declined more than 95% in western and southern Minnesota since the mid-1800s. Increased agricultural tile drainage removes temporary wetlands and continues to hamper the management of water levels for ducks and other wetland-dependent species. Excess nutrients impair water clarity, which in turn decreases aquatic vegetation. Hybrid cattails and other invasive plants also outcompete native vegetation and degrade wetland quality. Over half of the lakes in the prairie region of Minnesota have poor habitat. Minnesota continues to lose more native prairie every year. When grasslands are not managed, trees and invasive species encroach and reduce the benefits for ducks and other wildlife. Forested wetlands continue to be degraded by shoreline development, invasive species, and loss of trees mature enough to support cavity-nesting ducks.
- *Recreation demands and preferences have changed, which affects funding for state duck management activities.* The number of duck stamps sold in Minnesota peaked in the 1970s at greater than 160,000 and has declined to an average of 70,000 in recent years. Social, economic and resource trends are expected to continue influencing changes in the public's recreational preferences and participation. Despite opportunities from dedicated funding, such as the OHF, the decline in hunting license sales presents a significant challenge. Hunting license revenues fund many DNR wildlife management activities. The DNR also matches these license sales to federal Pittman-Robertson funds from an excise tax on shooting and archery equipment. There is no mechanism identified yet to adequately replace or supplement the declines in this funding, but there is work underway through DNR's 4 The Outdoors initiative.
- *Need for multiscale collaboration.* Because ducks are migratory, agencies and partners need to coordinate their management and conservation efforts not just within Minnesota, but across North America. Many of the ducks harvested by Minnesota hunters are hatched in the prairies and boreal forests of Canada and many will overwinter in southern states or Mexico. Continued collaboration will ensure partners effectively use funds to address the greatest priorities.
- *Tribal collaboration.* Ducks and duck habitat are important to tribal members and other indigenous people of Minnesota, contributing to a subsistence lifestyle and continuation of cultural relationships.

Tribal nations have recently expressed concerns about factors that influence duck populations in the state, including the effects of declining cavity trees, increased precipitation events on wild rice production, competition among native wetland plants and non-native hybrid cattail. The DNR recognizes and respects these federally recognized tribes' sovereignty and treaty reserved rights. Continued cooperation, coordination, and consultation with tribal nations in Minnesota is crucial to conservation efforts for ducks across the State and will inform our collective management actions.

- *Climate change.* Global and regional climate patterns are changing, and climate change has both known and unanticipated effects on habitat and wildlife populations throughout Minnesota. For example, increasing frequency and intensity of storms and warmer winters both affect wetlands. Climate change may complicate habitat management efforts by impacting the prescribed burn season, encouraging the spread of invasive and woody species, and altering regional hydrology with more intense rainstorms.

Goals

1. Increase the amount of protected wetland and associated upland habitat for ducks.
2. Maintain, enhance, and restore wetland, grassland, and forest habitat for ducks.
3. Increase opportunities for and participation in outdoor recreation related to ducks and their habitat.
4. Increase public awareness and appreciation of wetland conservation for ducks.

Objectives, Strategies and Performance Indicators

DNR staff, along with input from partners, identified the following objectives and outlined supporting strategies¹ to meet the goals listed above:

Objective 1: Acquire additional habitat by maintaining the current pace of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) acquisitions overall while increasing the proportion within priority areas. Additionally, improve access to private land for outdoor recreation by increasing acres enrolled in the DNR's Walk-In Access Program.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Focus WMA acquisitions to benefit ducks primarily in the Prairie and Prairie/Forest Transition, and in association with wild rice lakes in forested habitats.

Performance indicator: Maintain an average rate of 4,500 acres per year of WMA acquisitions including WMA acquisitions initiated by partners in the Prairie, Prairie/Forest Transition, and in association with wild rice lakes in forested habitat.

- 1.2 Work with partners to identify and acquire priority wetland and grassland wildlife habitat through local technical teams or other county level meetings with tribal, local, state, and federal partners.

Performance indicator: Work with partners to develop a new Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Support Tool to refine duck priority areas in which to focus protection, restoration, and enhancement of

¹ Performance indicators are specific to the strategy they are below. In cases where no performance indicator is listed for a strategy it was determined that it would be very difficult to track the efforts involved in pursuing the strategy.

habitat for ducks and, where appropriate, consider other environmental benefits like protecting water quality and drinking water by January 2028.

- 1.3** Adjust the DNR's WMA acquisition parcel scoring criteria to place preference on parcels located within priority wetland, grassland, and forest wildlife habitat.

Performance indicator: Improve the existing DNR GIS tool to allow the Strategic WMA/AMA Acquisition Team (SWAAT) to emphasize acquisitions in high priority waterfowl habitat identified by the newly developed Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Support Tool.

- 1.4** Strengthen the DNR's relationship with counties on land acquisition, habitat restoration, and enhancement activities.

Performance indicator: Meet with counties at least once every year to discuss land acquisitions and/or habitat efforts on DNR lands.

- 1.5** Seek long-term and/or new funding to sustain and expand the DNR's Walk-In Access program.

Performance indicator: Long-term and/or new funding obtained for the WIA program through state, federal, or partner funds.

- 1.6** Explore opportunities and select WMA sites located with a focus on enhanced facilities, wildlife, and habitat education, and connecting new users with information about the broader WMA system and associated recreational opportunities.

Objective 2: Increase the quality and quantity of duck habitat through restoration and enhancement on state-administered land and managed shallow lakes.

Strategies:

- 2.1** Identify wetlands and associated uplands in need of restoration or management within strategic waterfowl habitat areas of the state.

Performance indicator: Maintain or increase the number of wetlands assessed for enhancement or restoration each year.

Performance indicator: Select WMAs for intensive habitat management (i.e., addition of water control structures) located in areas identified by the newly developed Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Support Tool.

- 2.2** Implement restoration and enhancement actions on wetlands and associated uplands on state administered lands, with an emphasis on strategic waterfowl habitat areas.

Performance indicator: Maintain or increase the number of small wetland basins enhanced through management each year.

Performance indicator: Implement intensive habitat management on WMAs located in areas identified by the newly developed Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Support Tool.

2.3 Maintain current funding for Wetlands Management Program staff and consider future expansion of Wetlands Management Program to address identified wetland habitat needs.

Performance indicator: Identify funding and work areas that could benefit from expansion of the Wetlands Management Program.

2.4 Continue the work of the DNR's Shallow Lakes Program, including in-lake management, habitat assessments, using adaptive management, and implementing management on new basins.

Performance indicator: Maintain the number of lakes assessed each year.

Performance indicator: Maintain the number of shallow lakes managed each year.

Performance indicator: Maintain the number of wild rice lakes managed each year.

2.5 Add to the number of lakes managed for wildlife benefits through Wildlife Lake Designation under M.S. 97A.101 and other authorities (i.e. acquisition, easements, M.S. 103G.408).

2.6 Ensure that duck habitat and other habitats are taken into consideration through DNR interdisciplinary forest management coordination, and with resource managers (e.g. Tribal, federal and county).

Objective 3: Support the work of partners to protect, restore and enhance duck habitat throughout the State of Minnesota in alignment with Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Strategies:

3.1 Support and encourage partner led habitat enhancement activities and acquisition work on state lands through local, state, and federal funding including the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) program, traditional OHF grants, and Adopt-A-WMA agreements.

Performance indicator: Acres of partner-led enhancements and acquisitions.

3.2 Engage with both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in Minnesota as well as local USFWS Wetland Management Districts and National Wildlife Refuges to coordinate the protection, restoration, and management of additional waterfowl habitat.

Performance indicator: Participate in bi-annual meetings of the USFWS Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and advocate for management actions that would benefit Minnesota habitat and waterfowl throughout the Mississippi Flyway.

3.3 Coordinate with interested partners, including Tribal Nations, to promote and improve wetland habitat work in Minnesota. Explore and develop new partnership opportunities, including within and beyond the traditional conservation community.

Performance indicator: Facilitate and participate in bi-annual habitat management discussions and initiate a new habitat enhancement meeting.

- 3.4** Engage with interested partners, including Tribal Nations, to cooperatively assess and develop waterfowl habitat models for Minnesota and identify waterfowl priority areas to focus habitat acquisition, restoration, and enhancement work as outlined in Strategy 1.2.

Performance indicator: Identify Waterfowl Strategic Habitat Areas and communicate them to staff and partners by January 2028.

- 3.5** Continue to engage with Watershed Districts and other flood control authorities to partner on projects that will benefit ducks while also providing water quality and storage benefits in local communities.

Performance indicator: Maintain DNR representation on Watershed District Project Teams throughout the State.

- 3.6** Continue to support Canadian waterfowl habitat work which benefits the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Fall Flights Program and North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Performance indicator: Annual contribution made to Ducks Unlimited Partnership supporting on the ground habitat work in Canada.

- 3.7** Continue to support the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, which funds staff in partner agencies to assist private landowners.

Performance indicator: Annual contribution made to Farm Bill Assistance Partnership.

Objective 4: Develop and deliver messages on wetlands, grasslands and forest habitat, highlighting private land stewardship, recreational opportunities, and the contribution of this habitat to a vibrant Minnesota.

Strategies:

- 4.1** Annually update the DNR [private lands web pages](#) to provide current information for landowners to learn about conservation programs, how they can protect and improve habitat for ducks, and where to go for assistance and more information.

Performance indicator: Monitor traffic from DNR-provided links to partners and partner-developed web resources.

- 4.2** Provide a general wildlife habitat and management field operations outline to Division of Fish and Wildlife communications staff to assist them in researching and capturing the “boots-on-the-ground” work of area wildlife staff.

Performance indicator: Communicate at least one story/post monthly focused on ducks and their habitat.

Performance indicator: Create and display short web vignettes that highlight how this work benefits ducks, monitor web traffic, and promote vignette availability. Track related references/referrals from other communications channels.

4.3 Pitch “boots-on-the-ground” work story opportunities to area, regional and statewide media, tying in broader habitat and conservation themes when possible and resulting in big-to-small, top-down pictures of the work wildlife does.

Performance indicator: Track media coverage.

4.4 Enhance messaging about wildlife habitat within the Section of Wildlife’s web pages, so visitors see an integrated, informative, and interpretive approach to habitat conservation, enhancement, and acquisition. Tie in the benefits of and science behind habitat enhancement practices such as shallow lake and wetland drawdowns, vegetation management, and prescribed fire.

Performance indicator: Create a wildlife habitat web microsite, promote its availability, and monitor traffic and use with an eye toward continuous improvement.

4.5 Utilize and integrate existing resources (e.g., online WMA finder, Walk-In Access maps) into the [learn to waterfowl hunt web pages](#). Craft a marketing approach/plan that features duck hunting and drives traffic to the web page(s).

Performance indicator: Enhance the web page(s), implement marketing strategies, and monitor traffic and use with an eye toward continuous improvement.

4.6 Enhance the wetland research page(s) to better tell the story of research and monitoring of ducks and their habitat.

Performance indicator: Enhance the web page(s), promote its availability, and monitor traffic and use, and incorporate input from users.

4.7 Use the Wildlife e-newsletter to promote new and updated web content produced as part of strategies 4.1-4.6. Link to that information so it always is available to all rather than recasting it in a stand-alone, subscriber-only format of a newsletter.

Performance indicator: Track referrals to web resources from the respective newsletter briefs.

4.8 Seek out additional ways to promote ducks and their habitat to local stakeholders, elected officials, and partners to highlight our work; attend local and statewide events to discuss wetland and other associated habitat; expand conservation partnerships within diverse communities.

Performance indicator: Host an annual field tour with partners/public to promote ducks and their habitat.

4.9 Distribute the Plan and communicate key messages to area and program staff and include Plan priorities in the annual work plans.

Objective 5: Refine research and monitoring priorities for ducks and their habitat and implement and continue research and monitoring work to address these priorities.

Strategies:

5.1 Continue efforts to identify and prioritize research and monitoring needs related to ducks and their habitat through engagement with wildlife staff from within DNR and partner organizations, including Tribal Nations, federal agencies, conservation organizations, and academic institutions.

Performance indicator: The Waterfowl Committee and Habitat Programs review the priority research and monitoring project list annually. Research staff will create proposals, timelines, enlist collaborators, and identify potential funding resources for projects.

5.2 Monitor the status of duck populations, habitat resources, duck hunters, and duck harvest in Minnesota and surrounding regions of North America. Evaluate and adapt existing monitoring programs to achieve these goals. Utilize existing habitat data from all available sources.

Performance indicator: Present annual findings on monitoring and survey programs, describing their purposes and value.

Performance indicator: Support annual monitoring efforts at local and Flyway scales. Report metrics of waterfowl breeding pairs and habitat conditions.

5.3 Conduct research and monitoring projects that inform management of ducks and their habitat.

Performance indicator: Document the investment in research as well as the number of research projects.

Performance indicator: Share information internally using DNR Wildlife Research Summaries, annual project progress reports, research information briefs, and presentations at internal meetings.

Performance indicator: Share findings of research and monitoring projects externally via use of peer-reviewed publications, professional presentations, and public interest articles.

5.4 Review existing Waterfowl Refuges, Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and State Game Refuges to determine efficacy.

Performance indicator: Comprehensively review all waterfowl refuges, feeding and resting areas, sanctuaries, and state game refuges for duck use by 2028.

Appendix

Relationship of this Duck Plan to other plans

The DNR will implement this Plan in conjunction with existing DNR plans and plans adopted by conservation partners. This table highlights some of those plans along with their purposes and connections to overlapping work within the Duck Action Plan.

| Plan Name | Year | Purpose | Connection to this Duck Action Plan |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| North American Waterfowl Management Plan | 2024 | Sustain North American waterfowl populations; broaden engagement to increase conservation support. | Coordinate with Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in Minnesota to advance NAWMP habitat and engagement objectives. |
| Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan | 2017 | Provide goals for protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetlands and grasslands; uses a working lands approach to conservation; and promotes hunter access and retention. | Identify and prioritize duck habitat priority areas that overlap with PPJV focal areas. |
| Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Joint Venture | 2017 | Provide habitat objectives for emergent wetland habitat and forest habitat. | Identify and prioritize duck habitat priority areas that overlap with Joint Venture focal areas, focusing on wetland quality, long-term forest management and nest cavities. |
| DNR Shallow Lakes Plan | 2010 | Increase management of shallow lakes (implementation plan resulting from 2006 Duck Plan). | Shallow lake management direction supports 2006 Duck Plan and 2020–2023 Duck Action Plan. |
| DNR 50-year Long Range Duck Recovery Plan | 2006 | Sets a long-term aspirational vision for duck management in Minnesota. | 2020–2023 Duck Action Plan compliments this effort with actionable strategies. |
| DNR Pheasant Action Plan | 2025 – 2030 | Improve grassland habitat in Minnesota to benefit pheasants and other grassland-dependent species. | Coordinate on acquisition, partnering and habitat enhancement strategies that overlap. |
| Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan | 2018 | Focus efforts of conservation community into priority areas, uses a working lands approach to conservation. | Coordinate efforts among partners for protection, restoration, and enhancement in areas that overlap with duck priority areas. |
| DNR State Wildlife Action Plans | 2015 – 2025 and 2025-2035 | Focus efforts of conservation community into specific areas, focuses on Species of Greatest Conservation Need. | Conservation focus areas inform duck habitat priority areas. |
| One Watershed, One Plan (MN Board of Water and Soil Resources) | Multiple | Comprehensive watershed management plans | Informs a strategic landscape-level approach to watershed management. |

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| Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) | Multiple | Identify ways to restore and protect waterways | Informs a strategic watershed-level approach to restoration and protection |
| WMA/AMA Strategic Plan | 2017 | Focus acquisition priorities in Minnesota. | Geographic priority areas and existing WMA/AMAs inform priority wetland and upland habitat acquisition. |
| DNR WMA Master Plans | Multiple | Guide major unit habitat management throughout the State | Guides habitat management of major unit WMA important to ducks |
| Section Forest Resource Management Plans | Multiple | Guide forest management activities on state-administered lands | Guide forest management activities on state-administered lands important to ducks |