

FY 2014-2015

**Wisconsin DNR Waterfowl Stamp Program
– Final Report**



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Delta Waterfowl Foundation

FY 2014-2015

Manitoba Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Project

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Through support from the Wisconsin DNR Waterfowl Stamp Program, Delta Waterfowl achieved:

- Perpetual protection of 38,854 acres of waterfowl breeding, molting and staging habitat
 - 475 acres secured using Wisconsin funding
 - 38,379 acres secured through match funding
- Perpetual securement using Wisconsin funding at \$155 per acre
- Match funding totaling \$ 6.7 million



“Delta and MHHHC have permanently secured 103,833 acres of prime waterfowl breeding habitat”

Manitoba Waterfowl Partners

Delta Waterfowl has been working on waterfowl conservation and research in Manitoba since 1911. Started on the shores of Lake Manitoba at its namesake, the famed Delta Marsh, Delta Waterfowl has continued to conduct research and protect waterfowl habitat in Manitoba for over 100 years. The *Manitoba Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Project* is a part of this legacy, ensuring breeding habitat for ducks from across North America is available in Manitoba through the delivery of perpetual conservation easements.

Delta Waterfowl and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHHC) worked together to deliver this project in southwestern Manitoba. This prairie pothole area is an important breeding ground for waterfowl that migrate via the Mississippi flyway.

Since 1991, Delta's Adopt-A-Pothole (AAP) program has been delivering on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) goals and objectives. The AAP program is funded by individual duck hunters, state duck stamp grants, and NAWMP through the North American Wetlands Conservation

Act. Since 1999, the AAP program has been delivered in partnership with MHHHC and only uses perpetual conservation easements to protect waterfowl habitat on private land.

MHHHC is the lead organization coordinating NAMWP program delivery in Manitoba and works with various partners to realize NAWMP goals. In conjunction with MHHHC, Delta was instrumental in influencing the government of Manitoba to create conservation easement legislation in 1998.

Delta and MHHHC were the first to sign an easement in prairie Canada and continue to build one of the largest conservation easement holdings in Canada. Working exclusively within Manitoba, MHHHC is among the top easements holders in Canada.

In Manitoba alone, Delta and MHHHC have permanently secured 103,833 acres of prime waterfowl breeding habitat.

On-the-ground Accomplishments

In 2013, the Wisconsin DNR partnered with Delta Waterfowl to provide funding for perpetual conservation easements in priority waterfowl areas of Manitoba. Over two fiscal years (2014 and 2015) Wisconsin DNR contributed \$73,274 to protecting important waterfowl breeding habitat in Manitoba.

With this funding, MHC signed five conservation easements with Manitoba families protecting 475 acres of wetland and associated uplands in perpetuity (Table 1). The landowners were paid a total of \$57,104 from Wisconsin DNR funds, representing approximately 80 percent of the Wisconsin DNR award.

In an effort to provide as much detail and transparency as possible, Delta is submitting copies of the DNR-funded easements with this report.

Included in each easement is:

1. The agreement, payment (in CDN) and restrictions
2. Schedule A, which outlines the areas protected with hatching
3. Schedule B, a Baseline Documentation Report

“Wisconsin funds secured 475 acres of waterfowl breeding habitat”

Table 1: Wetland easements secured with FY14-15 Wisconsin DNR funding

Landowner	Wetland acres	Upland acres	Total acres	Payment (USD)
Pielechaty, E. & D. and J. Rist	55	13	68	\$ 7,829
Muir, R. & D.	21	40	61	10,285
Gosselin, M. & A.	30	127	157	14,731
Mackedenski, A. & M.	35	37	72	8,024
Mackedenski, A. & S.	76	41	117	16,235
Total	217	258	475	\$ 57,104



Map 1 - Aerial view of Pielechaty CE secured using Wisconsin DNR funding

Working With a Plan

Delta Waterfowl and MHHC work with their partners on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to ensure that breeding habitat for ducks is protected. The Prairie Pothole Region of southwestern Manitoba is an important breeding area for waterfowl that migrate through Wisconsin and the Mississippi Flyway. Due to its importance to a variety of waterfowl species (e.g. mallards, blue-winged teal, scaup and canvasback), this area continues to be a high priority area for the NAWMP.

Under the guidance of the NAWMP and regional Implementation Plans, MHHC and Delta have completed 414 wetland easements. These serve to protect approximately 103,833 acres of habitat in the most important breeding and staging areas of the Prairie Pothole Region in Manitoba.



Delta and MHHC – A Partnership Explained

Utilizing each other’s strengths, Delta and MHHC have come together to provide a pre-eminent waterfowl habitat protection program. By working with its partners from the United States, like the Wisconsin DNR, Delta is able to secure funding and provide project oversight to ensure partner needs are met; whereas MHHC has an existing structure and delivery capacity to provide on-the-ground expertise with conservation easement delivery in the Canadian waterfowl breeding grounds.

easements with individual landowners, register the agreements at Land Titles, hold the easement in perpetuity, provide annual monitoring and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the easement.

The costs for these administrative activities are borne by MHHC, resulting in as much of the Wisconsin DNR funds as possible going directly to the families who own the land. This relationship results in one of the most cost effective wetland protection programs in North America.

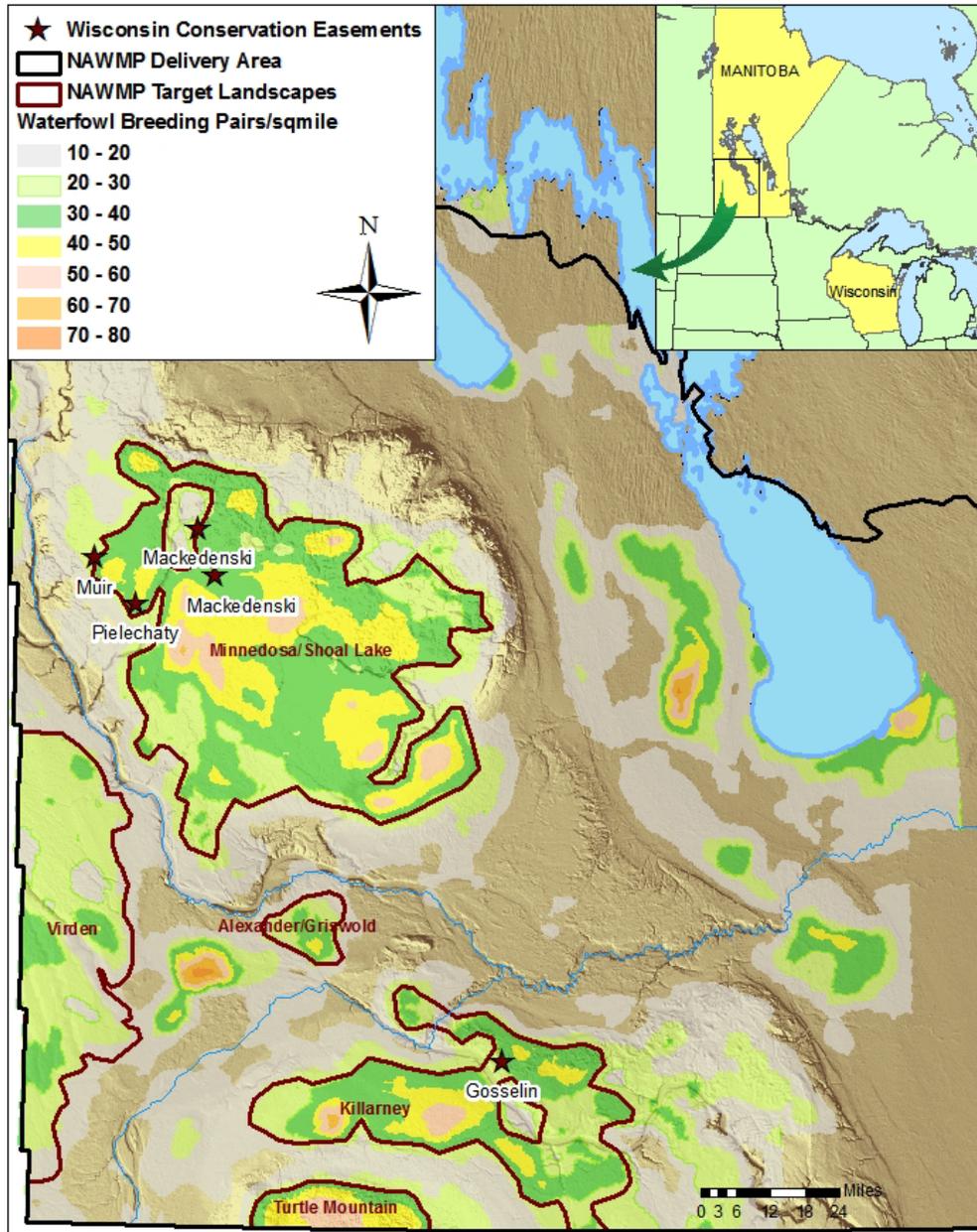
Specifically, MHHC works to negotiate

“...one of the most cost effective wetland protection programs in North America”



Photo 1 - Mackedenski, A & S conservation easement habitat example

Conservation Accomplishments



Map 2 - Location of Wisconsin DNR funded conservation easements

Table 2 - Habitat classification of secured lands from July 1, 2013 through April 10, 2015 (acres)

Funder	Wetland	Upland	Total
Wisconsin	217	258	475
Mississippi	138	213	351
Illinois	470	289	759
USFWS (NAWCA)	1,286	2,649	3,935
Environment Canada	126	33	159
MHHC	18,773	14,402	33,175
Total	21,010	17,844	38,854

Manitoba Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Project Budget

Table 3 - Project budget summary

Cost Category	Stamp Funds Waterfowl	Applicant cost-share contributions	Partner cost-share contributions
LTE salary, wages & benefits	\$ 13,196	\$ 186,300	\$ 398,536
Supplies	2,258	35,400	-
Services	-	-	-
Perpetual easements	57,104	-	6,020,744
Other costs	-	-	-
Travel and office expenses	717	-	282,976
Donated labour from partner groups	-	-	-
Sub-Totals	\$ 73,275	\$ 233,600	\$ 6,702,256
Total Project Cost	\$	\$	7,009,131

98.95%

Total percent match provided by partner groups

\$155

Total cost per acre for Wisconsin CEs

Table 4 - List of other project contributors

Project Contributors	Contributions (\$)
Wisconsin DNR	\$ 73,275
Delta Waterfowl	233,600
State of Illinois	93,310
State of Mississippi	39,891
USFWS (NAWCA)	768,255
Environment Canada	57,800
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	5,743,000
Total	\$ 7,009,131



Photo 2 - Mackedenski, A & M conservation easement habitat example

Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp Promotion

REACHING ACROSS BORDERS



2014 Duck Stamp, Wisconsin DNR

Waterfowl have never recognized political boundaries, only habitat needs. While Canada provides ample breeding opportunities for waterfowl, in winter, waterfowl need to move to warmer climates. This connection between Canada and the United States has been recognized within the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and by its partners, including individual U.S. states that are investing in wetland conservation in Canada.

Wisconsin is one of the Corporation's American partners that recognize by supporting habitat conservation in Canada, its residents will see a benefit; therefore, it and has legislated that one-third of its Duck Stamp revenues must go into the "development of waterfowl propagation areas within Canada which will provide waterfowl for this State and the Mississippi flyway." Starting in 1978 at a cost of \$3.25 per stamp,

they now sell for \$7.00 and have raised approximately \$15 million (USD) for waterfowl conservation through purchases by hunters and bird enthusiasts.

In 2013/14, MHHC received \$30,000 in funding from Wisconsin via a funding application by its partner, the Delta Waterfowl Foundation. These funds are earmarked to permanently protect 247 acres (100 ha) of wetland and associated upland habitat in Manitoba.



Autumn Fly-by, Jeff Dyck

MHHC - Wetlands

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Figure 1 - Excerpt from MHHC's FY14 Annual Report