

FY 2007 - WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP) MINNESOTA GENERAL STATE AND NATIONAL RANKING CRITERIA

Eligibility Checklist: the application is ineligible if any of the following apply.

1. The applicant cannot provide evidence of ownership/ control for the contract duration.
2. On/off-site conditions which make success of the project unlikely.
3. The proposed project location is currently enrolled in EWP, WRP, or CRP.
4. The proposed project location is on Federal, state or local government owned land, without prior approval.
5. NRCS contract cost share exceeds \$10,000, without prior approval.
6. An individual applicant owns less than 5 acres.

The following State and National ranking factors relate and provide reference to, the Protracts Ranking Tool.

STATE CONSIDERATIONS

S1. Proximity to important habitats:

- Project is within or directly adjacent to, AND will enhance an **Area of Biological Significance** identified in the DNR Natural Heritage Data Base. 20
- Project will not compliment identified important habitats. 0

S2-5. Proximity to lakes, streams, rivers ground water connections and wetlands:

- Practice is directly adjacent. 20
- Practice is within 0.25 mile. 10
- Practice is between 0.25-1.0 miles. 5
- Practice is greater than 1 mile. 0

S6-9. Potential to connect or expand permanent habitat areas (ie. corridors, blocks):

- Project will establish vegetative cover immediately adjacent to, OR will connect existing habitat (state/federal, RIM, WRP, CRP, NGO lands, etc). 20
- Planned acres are within 0.25 mile of existing wildlife habitat. 10
- Planned acres are between 0.25-1.0 miles of existing wildlife habitat. 5
- Planned acres are greater than 1.0 mile from existing wildlife habitat. 0

S10-13. Size of area treated by WHIP contract:

<u>UPLAND/WETLAND</u>	OR	<u>STREAM / RIPARIAN PRACTICES</u>	
> 40 acres		> 500 feet	20
21 - 40 acres		301 - 500 feet	15
5 - 20 acres		100 - 300 feet	10
< 5		< 100 feet	0

S14. Long Term Benefits

- Contract length 5 years 0
- Contract length ≥ 10 years 20

S15. Relation to existing specific Resource Management Plan.

Name of Plan: _____

- Project is a component of a comprehensive wildlife management plan. (ie. Agency Plan, Forest Stewardship Plan, NGO Project etc) 20
- Project is not part of a comprehensive wildlife plan. (ie. site specific practice) 0

S16-19. Societal benefits – only those that apply (20 points maximum):

- 0 or 5 pts. - Public education/recreation (ie. demonstration, outdoor classroom, recreation)
- 0 or 5 pts. - Surface water/ Groundwater protection (ie. riparian, wetland restoration, sink hole)
- 0 or 5 pts. - Floodway or flood storage benefits
- 0 or 5 pts. – Project benefits native pollinators (see MN Native Pollinator requirements)

S20. Cultural Resources:

- Project protects, establishes or manages resources of cultural or spiritual significance. 10
- Other 0

S21. WHIP contract cost.

- WHIP cost is $\leq 50\%$ of contract cost. 10
- WHIP cost is 51%-75% of contract cost. 0

S22. Landowner financial commitment.

- Landowner financial contribution towards project cost. 10
- Landowner bore no cost in the project. 0

S23. Operation and maintenance requirements.

- Contract comprises non-structural practices requiring minimal to no long term management. (ie. fencing, vegetation establishment etc). 10
- Contract comprises structural measures requiring long term intensive management to maintain practices. 0

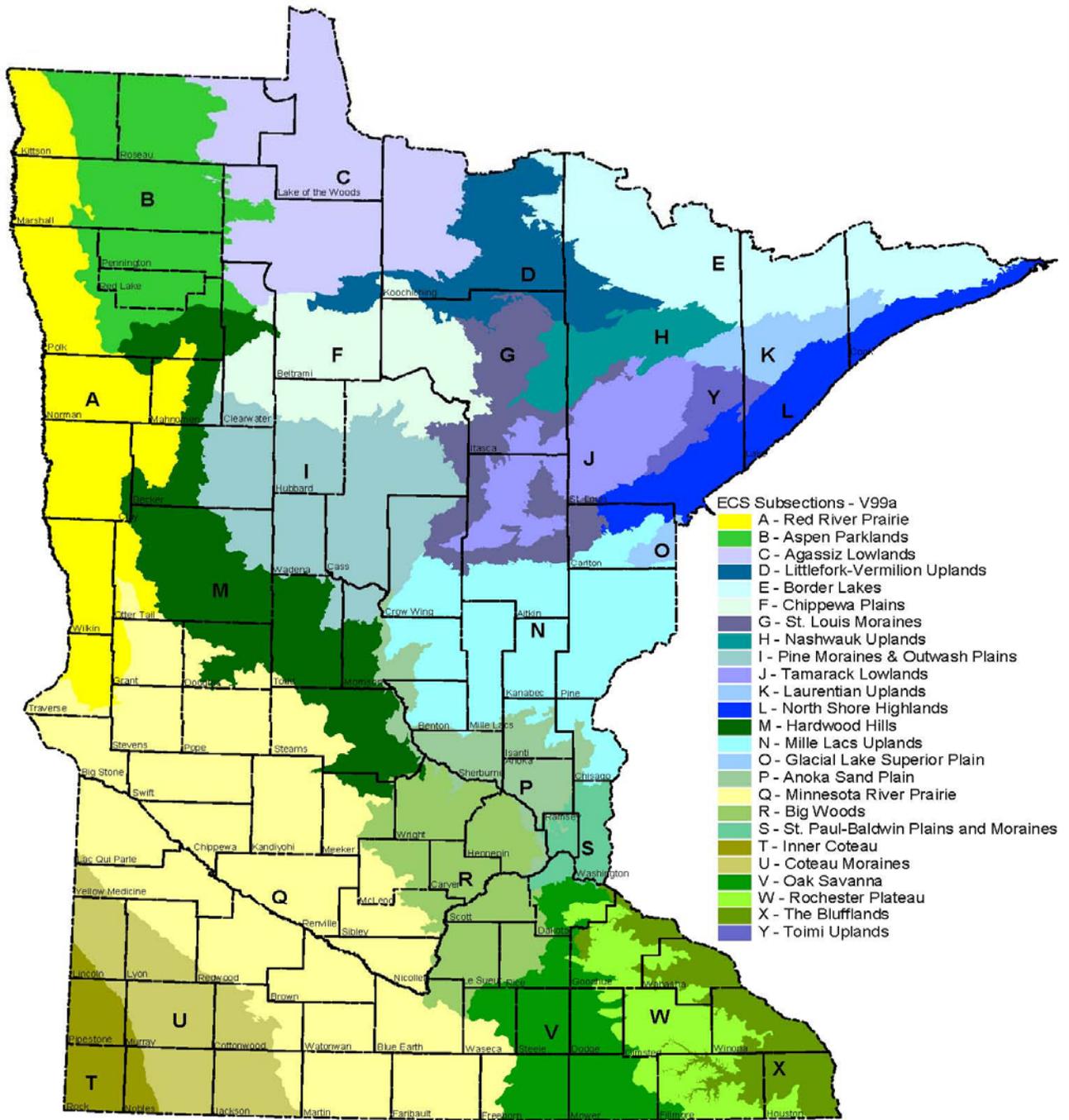
NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- N1. Restoration/Management of declining habitats in relation to ecological subsections (Appendix 1):**
- Project manages or establishes key habitats consistent with the sub-section. 30
 - All other alternatives 0
- N2 or N3 or N5. Benefits to endangered, threatened or candidate species:**
Species to benefit: _____
- Project establishes/manages State or Federally listed Endangered or Threatened species. Refer to **Appendix 2** for scoring guidance. 30
 - All other options. 0
- N4. The treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the reduction of invasive species on wildlife habitats.** 5

Appendix 1: Key Habitats by Ecological Subsection

PROVINCE - SUBSECTION	KEY HABITATS															
	Oak Savanna	Forest Upland Deciduous (Aspen - Oak)	Forest Upland Deciduous (Hardwood)	Forest Upland Conifer	Shrub/Woodland - Upland	Forest Lowland - Deciduous	Forest Lowland - Conifer	Shrub Lowland	Shoreline-Dune-Cliff	Prairie	Native Grassland	Wetland - Nonforest	Lake - Shallow	Lake - Deep	River - Headwater to Large	River - Very Large
PRAIRIE - PARKLAND																
Red River Prairie						X				X	X	X			X	X
Minnesota River Prairie									X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Coteau Moraines										X	X	X			X	
Inner Coteau										X	X	X			X	
TALLGRASS-ASPEN PARKLAND																
Aspen Parklands					X					X	X	X	X		X	
EASTERN BROADLEAF FOREST																
Anoka Sand Plain	X								X	X	X	X	X		X	
Oak Savanna	X									X	X	X			X	
Rochester Plateau					X					X	X	X			X	
Blufflands	X								X	X		X			X	X
Hardwood Hills		X	X		X					X	X	X	X		X	
Big Woods	X	X	X						X		X	X	X		X	X
St. Paul Baldwin Plains	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X		X	X
LAURENTIAN MIXED FOREST																
St. Louis Moraines				X										X	X	
Glacial Lk Superior Plains		X	X	X											X	
Littlefork Vermillion Uplands				X			X								X	
Agassiz Lowlands							X	X				X			X	
Nashwauk Uplands			X	X	X		X								X	
Border Lakes				X	X		X							X	X	
North Shore Highlands				X			X	X						X	X	
Toimi Uplands				X	X		X								X	
Tamarack Lowlands				X			X					X			X	
Pine Moraines/Outwash Plains				X	X							X			X	
Laurentian Uplands				X	X		X								X	
Chippewa Plains					X		X					X			X	
Mille Lacs Uplands			X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X

ECS Subsections with County Lines



Appendix 2: Wildlife Habitat Benefits - Federal and State Listed Endangered, Threatened and Candidate Species.

FEDERAL - Endangered (FE), Threatened (FT) and Candidate (FC).

STATE - Endangered (SE), Threatened (ST).

SCORING: Review the following species categories (plants, animals, mussels and fish) for potential points (30).

ANIMALS: Use the following matrix to evaluate species identified by the MDNR Natural Heritage Data Base as occurring in the county. Score 30 points if the cover establishment/management meets the requirements outlined in the KEY footnotes 1-3.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>GRASS</u>	<u>TREES</u>	<u>WETLAND TYPE</u>
BIRDS:			
Piping Plover (SE, FT)	1	N	1 (Palustrine Emergent)
Baird's Sparrow (SE)	1	N	N
Henslow's Sparrow (SE)	1	N	N
Sprague's Pipit (SE)	1	N	N
Chest collar Longspur (SE)	1	N	N
King Rail (SE)	N	N	1 (Palustrine Emergent)
Burrowing Owl (SE)	1	N	N
Bald Eagle (FT)	1	1	1 (Palustrine Forest)
Peregrine Falcon (ST)	1	1	1 (Palustrine Forest)
Trumpeter Swan (ST)	N	N	N
Loggerhead Shrike (ST)	1	1	1 (Any Type)
Wilson's Phalarope (ST)	1	N	1 (Palustrine Emergent)
Common Tern (ST)	N	N	1 (Palustrine Emergent)
Horned Grebe (ST)	N	N	1 (Palustrine Emergent)
MAMMALS:			
Gray Wolf (FT)	3	3	3
Canada Lynx (FT)	N	N	N
Eastern Spotted Skunk (ST)	1	1	1
REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS:			
Massasauga (SE, FC)	1	1	1
Northern Cricket Frog (SE)	1	N	1
Wood Turtle (ST)	1	1	1
Blanding's Turtle (ST)	1	N	1
Timber Rattlesnake (ST)	1	1	N
BUTTERFLIES:			
Karner Blue Butterfly (FE, SE)	1	1	N
Persius Dusky Wing (SE)	1	1	N
Assiniboia Skipper (SE)	1	N	N
Uncas Skipper (SE)	1	N	N
Uhler's Arctic (SE)	1	N	N
Dakota Skipper (ST, FC)	1	N	N
Ottoo Skipper (ST)	1	N	N
Garita Skipper (ST)	1	N	N

- KEY:** N) Practice will not directly benefit listed species.
- 1) If located within 1.0 mile of a documented population, nest, den /breeding site.
 - 2) If located immediately adjacent to documented population, breeding/bed site.
 - 3) Points for the Gray Wolf may only be awarded for conversion of existing cropland to permanent vegetative cover, in the following counties: Roseau, Lake of Woods, Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Cook, Lake, Koochiching.

VASCULAR PLANTS: Score points if the contract is immediately adjacent to a population identified as occurring in the county based on the MDNR Natural Heritage Data Base, and the practice will buffer or enhance the population.

AQUATIC SPECIES (MUSSELS AND FISH): All Federal and State listed Mollusks and Fish. Score points if offering is located within the local watershed (8 digit HU) adjacent to and upstream of a bed or population identified by the MDNR Natural Heritage Data Base.