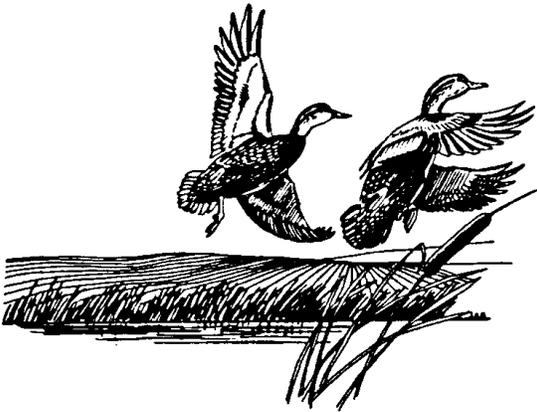


**Grass
Lake**



**Restoration
Partnership**



**Worth County
Iowa
Freeborn County
Minnesota**

April 1998

For more information call the NRCS at
(507) 373-5607

Grass Lake Project Area

If one were passing by the Grass Lake area in 1850, one would have seen a lake with shallow open water and emergent vegetation surrounded by wet meadows with a mosaic of oaks and prairie on the adjacent uplands.

Driving by the area today, one would see cropland fields and reedcanary grass hayland. To facilitate row crop production County Judicial Ditch 52, and intricate systems of lateral ditches and drainage tiles were constructed. The topography of the basin has made it difficult to drain and farm the area effectively. The result is that the area has a shorter than normal growing season due to frequent flooding and untimely frosts.

Restoration Plan

The intent of the Grass Lake Restoration Partnership is to carry out hydrologic and vegetative restorations in order to duplicate as closely as possible the pre-European settlement conditions of the land. **Utmost care will be taken in order to assure that there will be no disturbance to the drainage systems of adjacent non-participating landowners.**

The goals identified include: 1. restoring wetlands in the lakebed and surrounding prairie potholes, 2. restore prairie ecology on uplands, 3. improve wildlife habitat, 4. increase outdoor recreation opportunities, 5. Remove wet, hard to farm land from crop production.

The Partnership

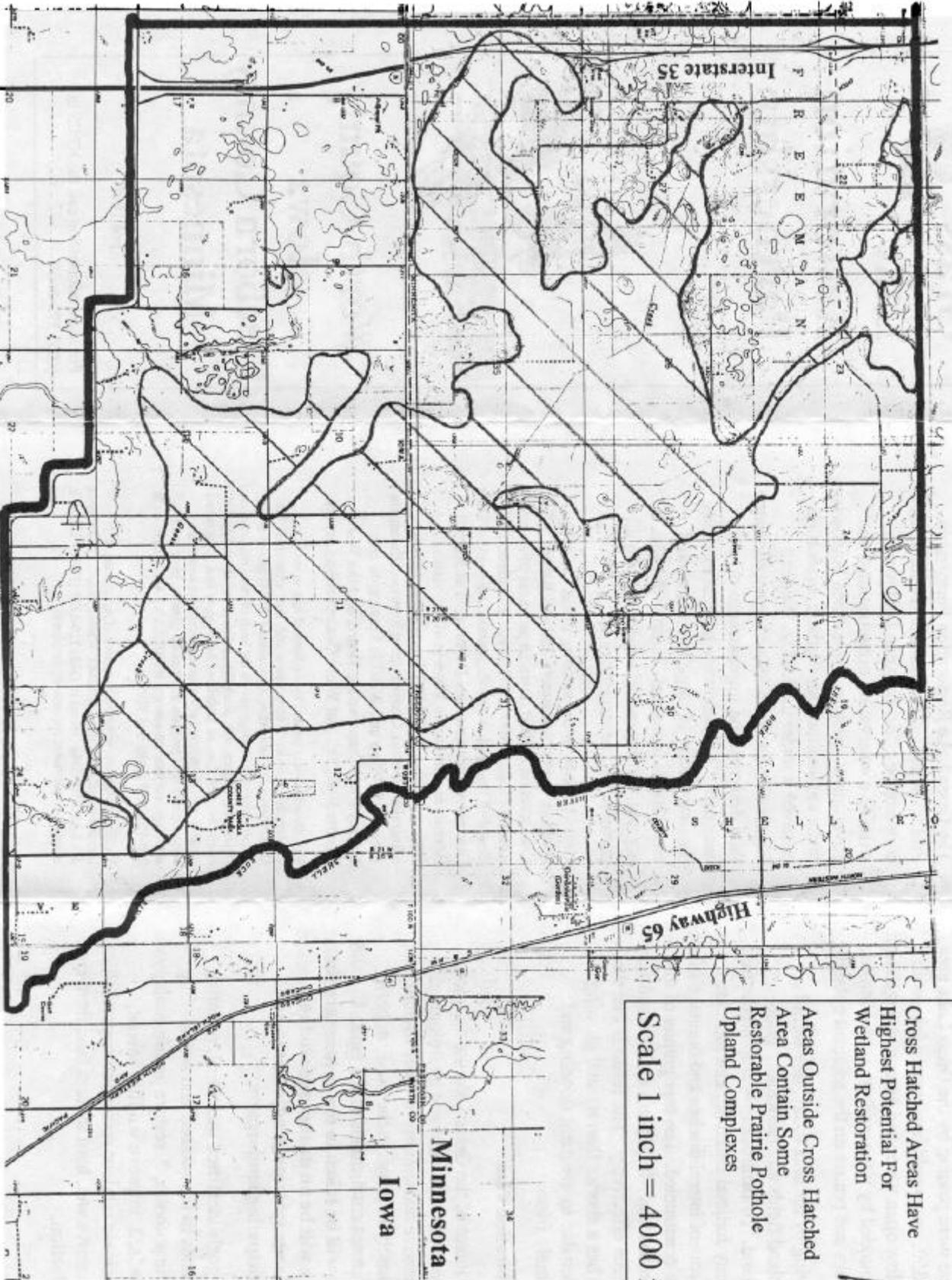
The Grass Lake Restoration Partnership Project began and continues to operate as a cooperative effort between landowners, wildlife conservation organizations, and government agencies. Interested landowners make applications for wetland restoration easements under the USDA Wetland Reserve Program. Wetland restorations are then designed and implemented on each easement. As landowner interest expands, the practicality of large interconnected restorations increases. In order for this to happen, resources and expertise from all partners will be necessary.

Grass Lake Project Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Freeborn County Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation District, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, MN Board of Soil and Water Resources, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, MN Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Worth County Iowa Conservation Board, and the Worth County Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District.

This brochure was created by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in cooperation with the Partnership. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, D.C., 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Grass Lake Project Area Map



Cross Hatched Areas Have Highest Potential For Wetland Restoration

Areas Outside Cross Hatched Area Contain Some Restorable Prairie Pothole Upland Complexes

Scale 1 inch = 4000 feet