

FOX RIVER/GREEN BAY NRDA TRUSTEE COUNCIL 2018 RESTORATION PROJECT IDEA FORM

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of Project: Green Bay and Winnebago Pools Priority Protection Area

Fox River NRDA Project Number: (This will be assigned) **Date Submitted:** 03/23/18

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Manager: Brian Glenzinski

Name of Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc (DU)

Address: 4511 Helgesen Drive, Madison, WI 53718

Phone Number: 608-221-1206 x 12 **E-mail:** bglenzinski@ducks.org

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3. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Estimated Total Project Cost (NRDA Funds Requested + Matching Funds): \$916,300

Total NRDA Funding Requested: \$500,000 Est. Matching Funds/In-Kind Services: \$416,300

4. PROJECT CATEGORY	
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- ☐ Aquatic, Near-shore, and Riparian Habitat Protection or Restoration Project
 - ☐ Fishery Population Enhancement Project
 - ☐ Increased Public Access to Fishery Resource
 - ☒ Wetland & Associated Upland Habitat Restoration or Preservation

5. RESTORATION IMPACTS (Quantify the potential impacts of your project):

Acres restored:	Acres preserved (acquisition only): 160 acres
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Stream miles restored:	miles	Stream miles opened for fish passage:	miles
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6. PROJECT PARTNERS

List any project partners (specify which of these partners you anticipate contributing matching funds):
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Leopold WMD Complex

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Knowles Nelson Stewardship (\$403,000 unsecured)

Ducks Unlimited (\$13,300 – Secured)	
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7. PROJECT LOCATION *(Projects must be in the restoration area outlined by the Trustees. Geographic priorities are identified on pages 69-71 of the '2016 Update to the Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Area' found at: <http://www.foxriversnrda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-Update-to-the-Restoration-Plan-and-Environmental-Assessment.pdf>)*

State, County, Township, Section, Range:

Wisconsin, Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties

8. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Briefly describe the main objectives of the project:

The main objectives of the project are to acquire 160 acres of priority wetlands and associated upland habitat. The Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area is targeted for this effort and have ongoing negotiations with an interested seller. However, the intent is to leverage these funds to expand to other acquisitions in the focus area as was the case for the previous Rush Lake NRDA Acquisition Project.

Explain how your project will restore, replace, or acquire habitat for fish and wildlife species injured by PCBs and describe that habitat:

Acquiring an additional 160 acres of former agricultural land, existing wetland, and adjacent upland will provide additional habitat for breeding and migrating waterfowl and other migratory birds and wildlife. Once these properties are acquired, DU and its partners will continue to look for sources to fund future restoration. There are opportunities to restore coastal marsh, shallow wetlands, wet meadows, and wet-mesic grasslands on these properties. Once restored the areas would provide improved wildlife habitat and potentially support the federally threatened Eastern prairie fringed orchid, which is found on several nearby tracts of the WPA. Other species that will directly benefit from these acquisitions include Northern pike, black tern, night hawk, sandhill crane, American bittern, Canada warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow headed blackbird, monarch, least bittern, other waterfowl and migratory shorebirds, and various species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians. This project is requesting funds for acquisition only.

List any fish or wildlife species, cultural resources/ practices injured by PCBs that will directly receive benefits as a result of this project (please note if there are any federally or state listed threatened or endangered species): *(For more information on priority resources, refer to pages 47-54 and 69-71 of the '2016 Update to the Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Area' found at: <http://www.foxrivernrda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-Update-to-the-Restoration-Plan-and-Environmental-Assessment.pdf>)*

The following species will directly benefit from this project: many species of waterfowl including mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, Canada geese; a variety of egrets, herons, and bitterns; a variety of shorebirds; sedge wrens; Northern harriers. A variety of birds utilize habitat in the project area such as black terns that nest in nearby wetlands, sandhill cranes that flock to the area in large numbers in the spring and fall to nest, and reintroduced whooping cranes that frequent the area. Populations of the federally threatened and state endangered Eastern prairie fringed orchid are also found on nearby tracts. The project will buffer these populations and potentially provide additional orchid habitat.

Describe how this project aligns with the goals and objectives identified in your organization's management plan. Also list any national, state, regional, tribal, or local plans that are pertinent to this project:

All projects are located within DU's Great Lakes Initiative priority area and are also identified in several Great Lakes Basin conservation plans such as the Midwest Region Coastal Program Strategic Work Plan – Green Bay Focus Area, Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Implementation Plan, and Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. Ducks Unlimited, Leopold WMD, and Wisconsin DNR have all been active partners in the acquisition, restoration, and/or management of wildlife habitat in the Focus Area. The Uihlien WPA project lies within the Winnebago System Focus Area of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture which was designated as a high priority in the UMR and GLR Joint Venture Implementation Plan. The project site also lies within the Rush Lake Complex Initiative area which was identified in the Wisconsin Plan as priority 1 habitat. Additionally, this project aligns with similar goals and objectives as Partners in Flight, the Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan, and the Rush Lake Action Plan to restore and promote diverse habitat and wildlife use in the Uihlein WPA and Rush Lake complex.

Describe any deliverables that will result from this project and how you will disseminate results/data to the NRDA Technical Team and the wider conservation community:

Green Bay and Winnebago Pools Priority Protection Area project will result in the protection and long-term preservation of 160 acres of wetlands. These acres will be open to the public providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

This project will be publicized through Ducks Unlimited with credit given to NRDA for their contribution to the project and wetland conservation. Lands protected through this effort will be signed at public entrance points where all partners will be recognized.

9. METHODS

Identify the major steps involved in the project including any permits or compliance issues that need to be addressed. Include a timeline for completion:

The first step is to appraise the property and negotiate final sale price. Estimated agricultural land values in this area are around \$5,000/acre and conservatively calculated at \$5,500 for budget purposes (see below) A purchase agreement will be signed, likely contingent upon receiving WDNR-KNS dollars. Once this is complete and funds are secured, closing will proceed. There are currently negotiations being held with the landowners. This project aims to deliver the WPA acquisition and hopes to leverage funds into multiple acquisitions to increase conservation impact. All future acquisitions will be vetted through NRDA for approval and amendments as needed. After land is acquired, DU and its partners will continue to find funding sources for the next phase of restoration. The first phase is for acquisition of only.

10. MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Describe both short-term and long-term maintenance requirements for the project:

Maintenance and management of the tracts will include prescribed burning and invasive vegetation control. Management actions will be based on the results of waterfowl and other bird surveys, presence of threatened and endangered species, and the goals described in regional and state plans. Long term maintenance will be assumed by the final title holder.

11. MONITORING PLAN

List any pre- or post-project monitoring activities that will be completed at the site:

We expect to focus future monitoring and evaluation under the restoration phase of this project. The final title holder will assume monitoring activities. These may include regular inspection of the quality of habitat and condition of management infrastructure and water quality monitoring to ensure the site continues to provide long-term wetland benefits. DU has monitoring protocol in place for all land during the holding period.

12. LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS

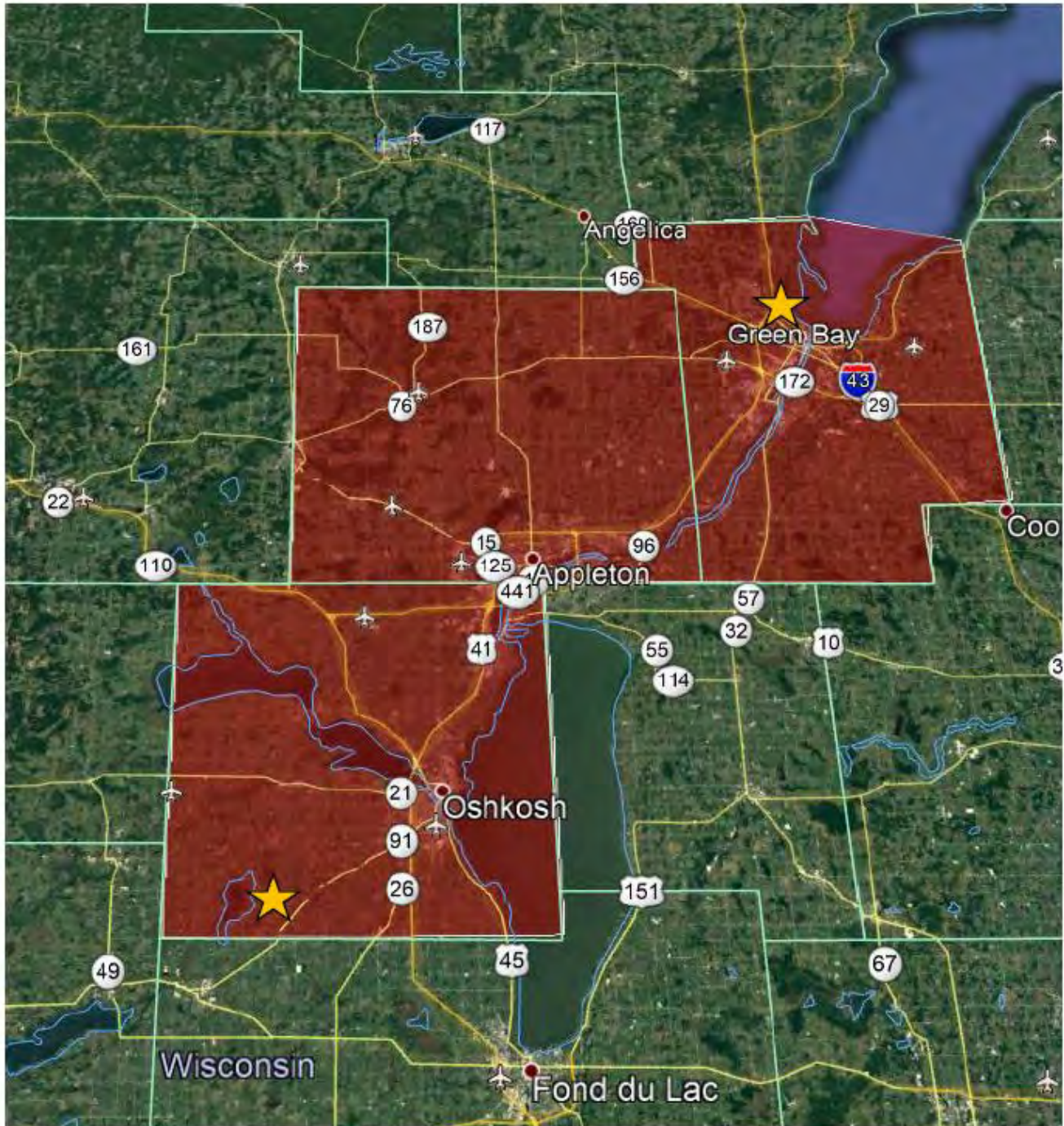
How will you determine if the project is a success? What criteria will be used to make the determination? What are potential problems or risks to project success?

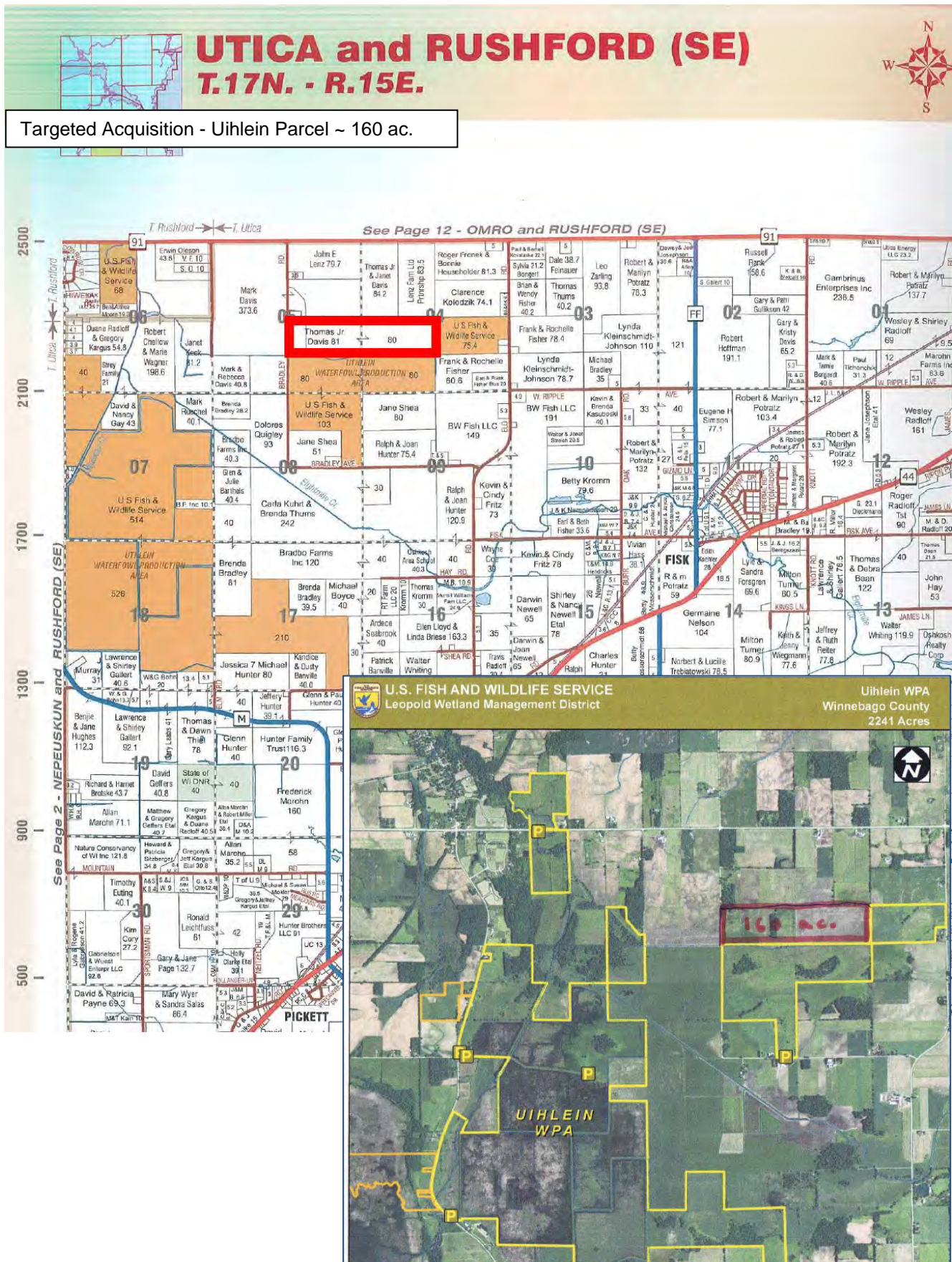
Success will be determined by the Fee title acquisition of 160 acres and transfer to public entity or other long-term title holder. DU operates like other State and Federal acquisition programs and is held to more or less fair market value. Land owners may believe their land is worth more and negotiations may fall apart, however, preliminary negotiations suggest the landowner is close to FMV.

13. ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED WITH REPORT

1. Provide a **map or aerial photo** of project area;
2. Submit any **relevant digital photos** of the project area. Include captions with the photos and any photographic credits;
3. Provide any relevant **designs or detailed budget estimates**.

Green Bay and Winnebago Pools Priority Protection Area (yellow stars under negotiations)





Budget Category	NRDA funds requested	Matching funds <u>anticipated</u>	Description of Budget Item (Indicate source(s) and status of Matching Funds)	Projected Cumulative Project Expenses
Uihlein Fee Title	\$473,000.00	\$407,000.00	DU (\$7,000 secured) KNS-WDNR (\$400,000 unsecured)	\$880,000.00
*Travel	\$2,570.00			\$2,570.00
*Salaries/Benefits	\$18,000.00	\$6,300.00	DU	\$24,300.00
*Appraisals/Cert	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	KNS-WDNR	\$4,000.00
*Closing costs	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	KNS-WDNR	\$2,000.00
Indirect*	\$3,430.00			\$3,430.00
TOTAL	\$500,000.00	\$416,300.00		\$916,300.00

BUDGET NOTES: BUDGET NOTES:

Travel: \$2,930 in travel cost are associated with 1,950 miles of vehicular travel @ \$0.56/mi (\$1,090), 7 days of lodging @ \$115/night (\$805)and 15 days of meals at \$45 per day(\$675).

Personnel & Fringe Benefits: A total of \$24,300 is budgeted for hourly rate charges. DU has developed an Hourly Rate Charge, which includes personnel costs and fringe benefits, in accordance with OMB Circular Number A-122 using the direct allocation methodology prescribed in Section D.4. Staff working on this project fall into three different HRC categories: Professional Tech, Senior Professional, and Supervisory Professional.

- Approximately 200 hours of senior professional staff time have been allocated for biological contribution and agreement administration. The senior professional HRC is \$90 for a total of \$18,000 (including fringe benefits at 6.69%).
- Approximately 80 hours of supervisory professional staff time have been allocated for engineering and design development. The supervisory professional HRC is \$105 for a total of \$6,300 (including fringe benefits at 6.38%).

Requested Funding: Acquisitions are estimates and specific amounts will be determined via appraisal. Travel includes travel to/from the site and to present and share results at appropriate venues.

Matching Funding: The match for this project is associated with the current protection efforts. The priority area overlaps 2 Standard NAWCA Grant boundaries with unidentified tract funds in each. In addition, DU will attempt to secure GLRI and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship (KNS) funds to maximize impact.

***Indirect Rate** 14.83% NICRA applied to only rows with asterisks. Total \$23,570 @ 14.83% = \$3,495.