



Waterfowl Stamp Program

FY26-28 Wisconsin Habitat Project Application

Form (Revised December 2024)

Notice: Personally identifiable information provided on this form will be used for the management of the stamp programs only. Personal information is not intended to be used for any other purpose, but may be made available when requested under Wisconsin’s Open Records laws (ss. 19.32 – 19.39, Wisconsin Statutes).

Eligibility: This form is intended for use by Department personnel, non-Department organizations, government agencies, and universities applying for funds from the Waterfowl Stamp Program. Proposed projects should align with the goals of the program, focusing on enhancing and protecting waterfowl habitats in Wisconsin. Applicants must ensure that their projects will contribute to waterfowl conservation, including wetland restoration, habitat management or the creation of breeding and migratory areas.

Instructions: Eligible applicants for this program include Department personnel, non-Department organizations, government agencies, colleges and universities, school districts, tribal units of government, and private nonprofit organizations. All funds received under the Waterfowl Stamp Program must be used for waterfowl conservation and habitat management efforts. Applicants must fill out all requested fields of information in the application form and submit it via email to wewaterfowlstamp@wisconsin.gov by **February 14, 2025**. Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding. Please review the Request for Proposals (RFP) document and the application form instructions before submitting your application to ensure that all required information is included.

1. Project Title & Summary

Project Title (≤ 10 words): Goose Lake Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration
Waterfowl Stamp Funding Requested: \$46,000
Partner Contributions to Project (Optional): \$1,050
If applicable, the partner contribution is: Secured Unsecured
Total Project Cost, including anticipated cost-share: \$47,050

2. Applicant Information

Full Name of Primary Project Applicant: Anna Rzechowski
Organization: Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
Email: arzechowski@wisducks.org
Mailing Address: PO Box 421, Wales, WI 53183
Phone #: (262) 370-6860

Co-Applicant Information (if applicable)

Full Name: Julie Widholm
Organization: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Email: Julie.Widholm@wisconsin.gov
Mailing Address: 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg WI 53711
Phone #: (608) 267-0866

3. Project Origin & Acreage (Max 16 pts.)

3a. Location:

- Northern District (for projects on DNR lands)
- Northeastern District (for projects on DNR lands)
- West-central District (for projects on DNR lands)
- Southern District (for projects on DNR lands)
- Multi-District/Central Office (for DNR projects)
- Cooperator project not on DNR lands

3b. Counties affected: Dane County

3c. State managed properties affected (if applicable): Goose Lake Wildlife Area

3d. Habitat acreage impacted by project: 32

3e. Latitude/longitude point(s) within known project sites: 43.088814° N, -89.038641° W

3f. Wisconsin Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Strategy – Aggregate HUC 12 Watershed Ranking (16 pts.)

Note: Application review staff will determine the watershed location and score based on the lat/long coordinates provided in 3e. No action needed from the applicant. See the Wisconsin Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Strategy Decision Support Mapping Tool for more information.

Watershed Rankings and Corresponding Application Scores:

<u>Watershed Ranking</u>	<u>Points for Application</u>
9	16
8	14
7	12
6	10
5	8
4	6
3	4
2	2
1	0

4. Project Type (select the most applicable option) (Max 8 pts.)

*** See the Request for Proposals (RFP) document for detailed descriptions of each project type.*

- Restoration or Enhancement of Altered Wetland Hydrology (8 pts.)
- Major Maintenance of Wetland Infrastructure (6 pts.)
- Restoration of Waterfowl Nesting Habitat (4 pts.)
- Intensive Management of Wetlands (2 pts.)
- Other (0 pts.), please elaborate on type of project... [Click here to enter text.](#)

5. Description of Project Site and Land Use (Max 4 pts.)

5a. Please describe the current land use and habitat types within the proposed project site, as well as the adjacent area and landscape: (1 pt. max)

The project site is located at the southern end of Goose Lake Wildlife Area. The property is a heavily used wildlife area between Madison and Milwaukee. The wetland within the restoration area is largely wet meadow, dominated by reed canary grass with occasional Canada bluejoint and native sedges. This area is currently drained by several lateral ditches that empty into the main channel flowing south out of Goose Lake. A pond to the west of the main restoration area, surrounded by planted mesic prairie and oak woodland, currently drains into the westernmost lateral ditch in high water

years from an artificial outlet. Wetlands within the wildlife area to the north and west of the restoration area consist of shallow marsh surrounding the lakes and diverse peatlands and sedge meadow. The adjacent uplands are primarily glacial drumlins with a matrix of reconstructed tallgrass prairie and oak woodland succeeding to mesic forest in some places. The wildlife area is surrounded by agricultural fields – many tilled and ditched – and private homes.

5b. Is the project located within a Conservation Opportunity Area, important bird area (IBA) or a recognized landscape-scale habitat project area, such as the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area? (note – listing ecological landscapes of Wisconsin do not count) (1 pt. max) No

5c. Level of protection for the proposed project site following project completion (2 pts. max):

- Permanent conservation easement (2 pts.)
Easement holder: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Land permanently protected by governing body: (2 pts.)
Land Ownership: State Federal County Other
- Temporary conservation land use, management plan or conservation easement (1 pt.)
Type of agreement: [Click here to enter text.](#)
Years remaining after project: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Land NOT protected (0 pts.)

6. Public Waterfowl Hunting Opportunities (Max 2 pts.)

Does the impacted project area create public hunting opportunity for waterfowl? Select any that apply:

- Public* land or water that is open to hunting of waterfowl (2 pts.)
- Public* land or water that is open to hunting of waterfowl, but with some seasonal or access restrictions (1 pt.)
- Private* land or water on which access is open to everyone for hunting of waterfowl under a formal agreement, legal status or deed provision (e.g. VPA-HIP, Knowles Nelson Stewardship) (1 pt.)

7. Benefits to Waterfowl and other Wildlife (Max 6 pts.)

7a. Will the project impact breeding habitat of focal waterfowl species of Wisconsin (mallard, blue-winged teal, wood duck or ring-necked duck), and how so? (3 pts.) Restoration will create open water and shallow marsh through the creation of five wetland scrapes, with additional open water and shallow marsh created through disabling the drainage outlet to the kettle pond on the west side of the restoration tract. These areas, adjacent to planted prairie in the surrounding uplands, will provide excellent habitat with nearby nesting cover. Ditch filling is anticipated to result in saturated soils and southern sedge meadow habitat with pockets of open water throughout, as well. Many of the scrapes are located adjacent to dry oak woodland communities, providing habitat for breeding wood ducks.

7b. Will the project impact spring or fall migration habitat of focal waterfowl species of Wisconsin (mallard, blue-winged teal, wood duck, ring-necked duck or canvasback), and how so? (2 pts.) The project will provide open water and shallow marsh for loafing and foraging, as well as adjacent uplands comprised of both oak woodland and grassland. The shallow marshes will warm quickly in the spring, providing early access to invertebrates for migrating waterfowl.

7c. Is the project expected to positively impact any Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) or other at-risk species (such as those identified in the current [Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan \[WAP\]](#) or [Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Implementation Plan](#))? List up to 4 relevant non-waterfowl species and how the project is expected to benefit them: (1 pt.) American bitterns will benefit from the extensive emergent marsh habitat. Providing restored sedge meadow and emergent marsh adjacent to dry oak woodlands and upland prairie will provide quality habitat for overwintering and breeding Blandings turtles, as well.

8. Project Workplan and Timeline (Max 7 pts.)

8a. Project Goals & Objectives – briefly outline the main goals and objectives that the work will accomplish: (1 pt.)
 This project aims to restore historic hydrology to the extent possible and increase the quality of habitat available for waterfowl and other wildlife species utilizing wetlands. These efforts will provide habitat for dabbling ducks through the creation of scrapes and emergent vegetation and will restore conditions favorable for southern sedge meadow, southern tamarack swamp, and emergent marsh that likely occupied the area prior to hydrologic manipulation.

8b. Project Description – describe with some detail the work that will be undertaken in order to meet the project goals and objectives: (3 pts.) Restoration at Goose Lake Wildlife Area will involve 3,600’ of ditch fill, five wildlife scrapes, and a ditch plug that will increase surface water retention in a drained pond. Ditch fills will restore hydrology to currently drained wet meadow that likely previously contained a mosaic of southern sedge meadow, shallow marsh, and peatlands.

8c. Project Timeline – (projected work schedule for project, including anticipated date of completion): (1 pt.) Work is anticipated to begin in fall 2025, with a target completion date of March 15, 2026.

8d. Special Considerations – if applicable, mention any human safety considerations, site history, partnerships, obligations, timely opportunities or deadlines, management obligations, neighbor issues, environmental impacts, etc.: (2 pts) This wildlife area is adopted by Backcountry Hunters and Anglers who are active with volunteer days on the property. Goose Lake is a heavily used property between Madison and Milwaukee, making this a highly visible project. Any required avoidance actions for threatened and endangered species will be followed. Wisconsin Waterfowl Association and Julie Widholm with the Department of Natural Resources are partners on this project, and WWA is submitting this application on behalf of WDNR. This project is part of a statewide effort in partnership with WWA and WDNR to identify and restore wetland sites for the benefit of wildlife and public users. We have requested full funding for this project with limited partnership funds. If awarded, Waterfowl Stamp funds will be used as match for partnership funds to complete additional projects on DNR lands not included in Waterfowl Stamp funding applications. This will double the dollars awarded, accomplishing two projects for the cost of one.

9. Monitoring, Management and Maintenance (Max 3 pts.)

Describe how will the project site (habitat and/or infrastructure) will be monitored, managed and maintained following the completion of this project: (4 pts.)

There is no infrastructure included in wetland restoration plans at this site, reducing maintenance needs in the future. Vegetation management occurring on adjacent DNR lands will include this area with activities such as mowing, prescribed fire, and herbicide treatments implemented in future as budget and capacity allow.

10. Budget - estimate all costs associated with the project, including partner contributions (Max 5 pts.)

NOTE: Funds may be used to cover the salary of limited-term/temporary field positions for their time spent on the project. However, up to 25% of the requested Waterfowl Stamp funds of the Waterfowl Stamp portion of the budget may cover permanent staff salaries, wages and fringe benefits for the applicant organization staff (exception: DNR Wildlife Management permanent staff salaries remain an ineligible use of stamp funds).

NOTE: DNR PR operational funds are not eligible as partner contributions.

10a. (2 pts.)

	Waterfowl Stamp Funds	Partner Contributions
DNR LTE or partnership position salary, wages & benefits (including fringe):	\$6,000	\$1,050
Click here to enter text.		
Supplies (specify):	\$Click here to enter text.	\$Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.		

Services (contracted, purchased, or otherwise; specify):	\$40,000	\$Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.		
Equipment purchases (specify):	\$Click here to enter text.	\$Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.		
Other costs (specify):	\$Click here to enter text.	\$Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.		
Donated labor from partner groups (specify # of hours; value of donated labor = \$16/hour):	\$Click here to enter text.	\$Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.		
Sub-totals (sum each column)	\$46,000	\$1,050
Total Project Cost	\$47,050	

What is the total percent (%) of contributions provided by partners? Use sub-total from "Partner Contributions" column and divide by "Total Project Cost": 2.2%

What is the total cost per acre? (reference section 3d for the habitat acreage impacted by project)

Cost/acre, calculated with Waterfowl Stamp request only: \$1,437.50/acre

Cost/acre, including Partner Contributions: \$1,470.31/acre

10b. List of ALL Applicant & Partner Contributions by contributor (DNR-SEG funds, and Wild Turkey or Pheasant Stamp funding requests are not considered cost-share): (2 pts.)

1. Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

Contribution: \$1,050 Secured Unsecured

2. Click here to enter text.

Contribution: \$Click here to enter text. Secured Unsecured

3. Click here to enter text.

Contribution: \$Click here to enter text. Secured Unsecured

10c. Will the project be offered as match to earn other grants? (1 pt.) Yes No

If "Yes," please list grant programs: NAWCA

10d. Would you accept partial funding if offered? Yes No

If "Yes," what percent (%) of the total Waterfowl Stamp requested? 75%

If partial funding is awarded, how would your project goals, objectives and deliverables change? If partial funding is awarded, the project scope would be modified from a full ditch full to ditch plugs strategically located to maximize project impact.

Primary Applicant: Anna Rzchowski 2/14/2025

Co-Applicant: Julie Widholm 2/04/2025

Goose Lake Wildlife Area



- Scrapes (Full Ditch Fills)
- Surface Water Modeling**
- ELEV_FEET**
- 860
- 860
- Ditch Fills
- Lateral Effect

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Imagery Date: 2020