

## Chapter 6: Tamarac Wetland Management District

### Introduction and Background

The Tamarac Wetland Management District (Tamarac WMD), established in 1987, stretches over 10,600 square miles in Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard and Koochiching Counties (Figure 19 on page 88). The Tamarac WMD is responsible for administering 8,908 acres of wetland and conservation easements distributed throughout these five north central Minnesota counties. The Tamarac WMD is one of eight wetland management districts within Minnesota (Figure 19 on page 80). In addition to easement enforcement and management activities, Tamarac WMD personnel also perform consultation roles for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Bill programs, restore wetlands on private lands, and render technical assistance to landowners who desire to enhance wildlife habitat on their property. As the Tamarac WMD possesses no land in fee title, it presents the paramount challenge of working effectively with private landowners to achieve Service and District goals.

### District Purposes

Tamarac Wetland Management District was established in 1987...

- "... as Waterfowl Production Areas" subject to "... all of the provisions of such Act [Migratory Bird Conservation Act] ... except the inviolate sanctuary provisions ..." 16 U.S.C. 718(c)

### District Vision

*Tamarac Wetland Management District* is a picturesque canvas of a natural landscape transitioning from boreal peatlands to mixed forests of aspen, birch and pine. This diverse landscape affords the District unique opportunities to develop innovative partnerships centered on habitat restoration and water quality improvements. The District working with landowners and partners will strive to maintain healthy ecological systems providing habitat continuity beyond boundaries to support a diversity of



Red fox kits. Photo Credit: FWS

wildlife. The District will serve as a model of land stewardship and restoration practices while providing demonstration sites for scientifically proven wildlife and natural resource conservation techniques.

### Planning Background

Issues and alternatives were developed for the Tamarac WMD in tandem with Tamarac NWR. For a complete description of the process, please see Chapter 2 of the Draft CCP. The issues identified related to the WMD are:

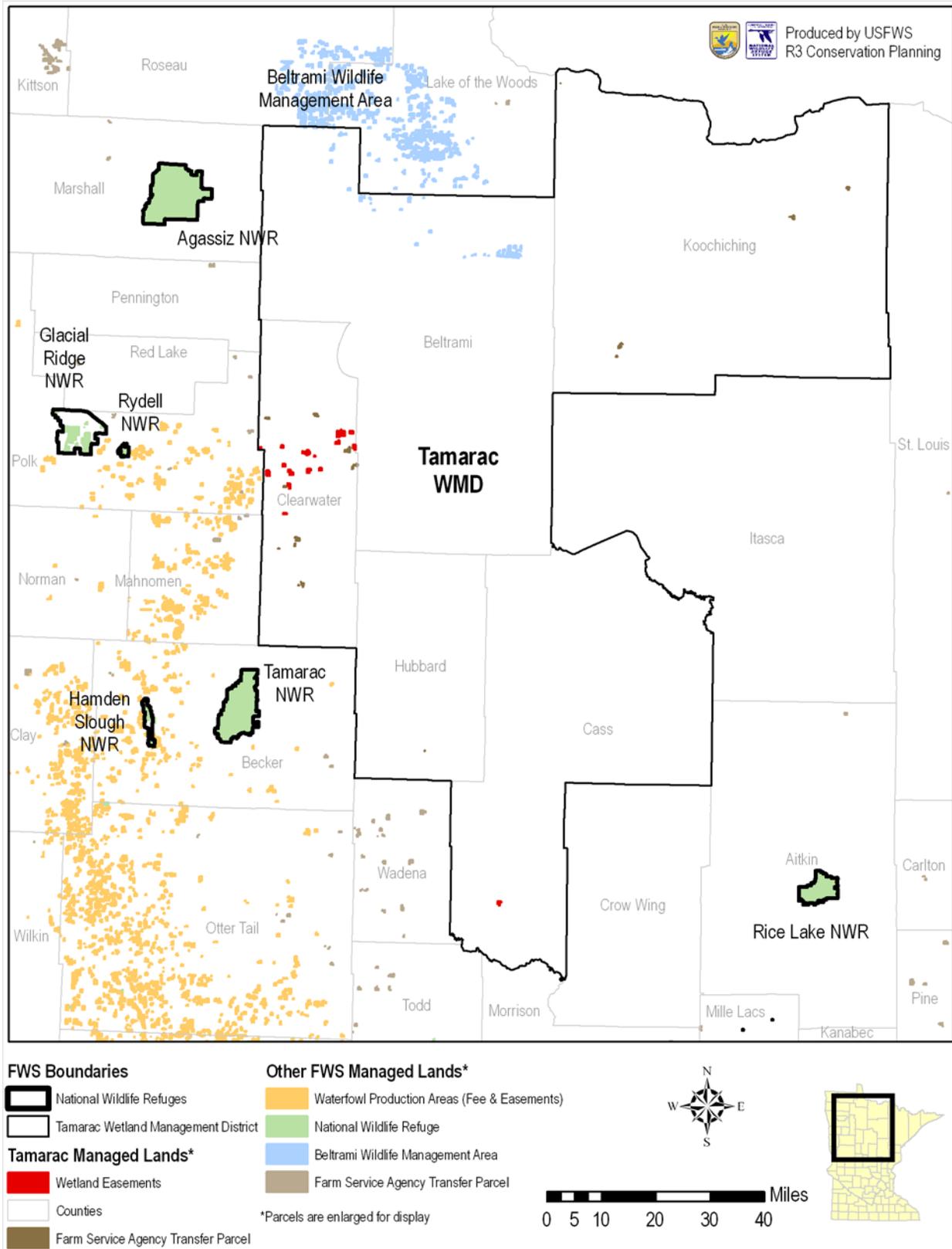
- Land Acquisition
- Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program
- Habitat Restoration Direction
- Invasive Plants
- Management Emphasis

### District Environment and Current Management

#### District Environment

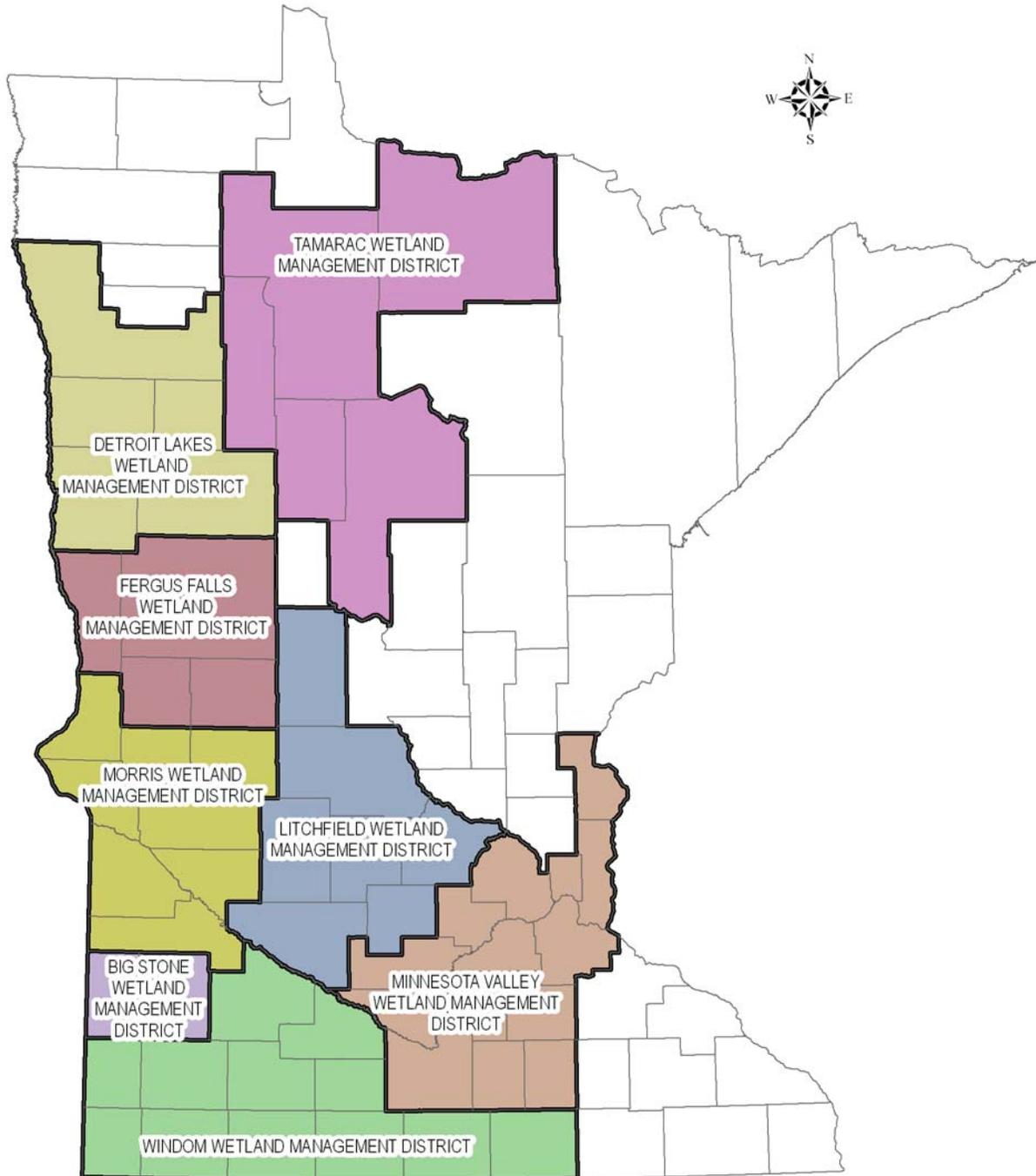
The landscape of the Tamarac WMD is comparable to Tamarac NWR in many ways in that it is

**Figure 19: Location of Tamarac WMD in Relation to Other FWS Lands**



**Figure 20: Overview of Wetland Management Districts in Minnesota**

  Produced by USFWS  
R3 Conservation Planning



largely forested, sharing many of the same habitat cover types, and replete with lakes, rivers, and wetlands. The environment, however, is significantly different in a number of respects, such that it supports extensive conifer dominated peatlands, intense agricultural areas, and excessive development for recreational purpose.

The District stretches across five north central Minnesota counties, over 170 miles north to south, and 115 miles east to west. Each county bears unique characteristics. Koochiching County abuts the Canadian border and represents the second largest county in the state. The land surface is predominately flat with swampy peat based soils where glacial Lake Agassiz was at its deepest point. The northern portions of the county are broken in places by Precambrian bedrock. The land is mostly forested, divided by a number of major rivers, but few lakes. Agricultural use and development is minimal. Beltrami County is similar in that it is generally level and primarily forested, but possesses an abundance of lakes, including Upper and Lower Red Lake which cover about 280,000 acres. There are two basic physiographic regions: the lake plain of glacial Lake Agassiz over the north half, consisting of broad and flat lacustrine soils and beach ridges; and the moraine-outwash complex overlaying the south half, a level to hilly region bearing sandy to loaming glacial till. The county economic industries of tourism, timber, and farming have considerably altered the natural landscape. To the south, Clearwater County is comprised of a great variety of landforms and soil types. Forestry is the dominant land use, despite significant agricultural fragmentation. High wetland densities abound across the county. Hubbard County to the east is likewise heavily forested and replete with lakes in the northern two thirds of the county. The southern portion is founded in a mostly sandy loam glacial till and supports a long agricultural tradition. Cass County shores up the south end of the district. Its topography ranges from flat to rolling. The landscape is pockmarked by over 500 interconnected lakes and waterways. The county is composed of a variety of landforms and soil types. Agriculture is less prevalent and favors pasture and hay production.

The District landscape conforms to three major watershed basins: most of Clearwater and Beltrami Counties drain into the Red River basin; Koochiching flows into the Rainy River basin; and Hubbard and Cass Counties run-off into the Upper Mississippi River basin. The District feeds 16 of Minnesota's 81 major surface watersheds.



*A Marsh Wren sings. Photo Credit: Jim Williams*

### **Current Wetland Management District Programs: Where We Are Today**

The Tamarac WMD is nestled along the western edge of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province in northwestern Minnesota. While no lands have been acquired in fee-title, the Tamarac WMD does manage or oversee 22 wetland easements (4,836 tract acres) and 23 former Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) inventory properties (4,072 acres) within its five-county management area.

Wetland easement tracts are legal boundary descriptions that encompass wetlands protected from draining, filling, leveling, and burning activities. Wetland easements are recorded as tract acres to account for increases in wetland surface area and to afford the Service some control over drainage activities within the tract boundary that impact easement wetlands. Former FmHA inventory properties fall into two general categories: conservation easements and deed restrictive covenants. Conservation easements protect both upland and wetland acres where the Service reserves restoration, habitat management, and enforcement rights. On deed restrictive covenants, the Service bears no management rights, but does ensure compliance with restrictive covenants and possesses the right to re-enter, restore, or repossess the property upon a covenant breach.

Extensive patches of open land and thousands of wetlands pock-mark and fragment the northern hardwood and boreal forest landscape of the District. Tamarac WMD private land activities have focused principally on wetland restoration. As much as possible, wetlands have been restored to historic



*A wetland restoration project gets under way. Photo Credit: FWS*

water levels to regain natural hydrological functions. Upland habitat improvement projects such as grassland establishment, the development of woodland stewardship plans, and wildlife benefiting grazing systems have been confined to FmHA conservation easement lands. Woodland management plans have generally centered on managing forest stands with little emphasis on ecological plant communities and natural processes.

#### Habitat Restoration and Management

The Tamarac WMD has restored more than 1,100 drained wetlands over the past 20 years. The bulk of this work has occurred in Clearwater County. Valuable partnerships are periodically forged with the Minnesota DNR, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, county soil and water conservation districts, and sportsmen clubs in support of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW). The PFW program has been, and continues to be the essential tool to restore degraded wetland habitat, as well as key in establishing the Service's presence and priorities across this large geographic area. Former crop fields on FmHA conservation easements have been sown to low diversity stands of both native and non-native grasses and exotic forbs. These seed mixes grew fast in a variety of soil types, controlled weeds, minimized annual maintenance needs, and provide effective, although not ideal, waterfowl nesting cover. A number of grazing plans have been developed which largely limit grazing duration and intensity on easements where grazing rights are retained by the landowner. Annual grazing dates generally run July 15 to September 1 to protect nesting waterfowl and ensure adequate vegetation re-growth for winter cover needs of resident wildlife. Little forest management has occurred except on state owned FmHA easement tracts.

#### Wetlands

Both restored and unaltered wetlands on private and easement lands are maintained at predicted natural water levels wherever possible. In the case of restoration, this is normally achieved by installing fixed-crest water control structures. Restoration techniques most commonly employed include the construction of earthen dams or "ditch plugs", installation of corrugated metal pipe structures, and placement of riprap spillways to control human-induced surface drainage. Clemson leveler devices are sometimes embedded into earthen dams to neutralize beaver activities that over-inundate wetland basins and suppress important aquatic plant communities. Due to logistical constraints, active water level manipulation is not conducted. Allowing wetland water levels to bounce according to variable precipitation events, yields the best collective benefits for waterfowl, wading birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic mammals. While used little to date, prescribed fire can play an important role in maintaining these aquatic ecosystems.

The District also participates in water quality partnerships to improve riparian and stream habitat on private lands.

#### Grasslands

Grassland management has been limited to FmHA easement lands and fall into two general categories: abandoned cropland and hayland that has reverted or is being maintained as tame grass and exotic broadleaf plant communities; and former agricultural fields that have been re-seeded to variable mixes of native big bluestem and switch grass, and non-native wheat grasses, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, and alfalfa. On a few state-owned FmHA easements, more diverse stands of native grasses and forbs have been established and are maintained through the use of prescribed fire. Landowners retain limited haying and/or grazing rights on many privately owned FmHA easements, that when exercised, does offer some management benefits by repressing noxious weeds and invigorating grasses. These practices, however, are commonly carried out too long or too intensely for ideal habitat maintenance. With landowner cooperation, attempts to modify their operations with modern, science-based practices are being employed that improve wildlife habitat, but also satisfy agricultural business needs. The Tamarac WMD PFW program has not engaged in any grassland management projects on private lands to date.

#### Forests

During the FmHA inventory property transfer period of the 1990s, Tamarac WMD staff co-developed with USDA officials a number of woodland stewardship plans. These plans are generally single

or co-dominant species oriented and in need of revision. On state owned deed restricted easements, where the Service maintains only conservation oversight, limited select cutting for wood products has occurred. Historically, the Tamarac WMD PFW program has not actively pursued forest improvement projects on private lands, but opportunities abound for future involvement.

#### Wetland Management District Public Recreation, Environmental Education, and Interpretation

All lands and projects administered by the Tamarac WMD are privately or state owned. Whether under easement or a PFW agreement, landowners completely control public access and use. Landowners are permitted to enjoy wildlife-dependent recreational activities such as hunting, trapping, fishing, bird watching, and wildlife interpretation, in accordance with state regulations. While staff is not an active participant, Clearwater County conducts environmental education work-shops at a facility on the Lawrence FmHA conservation easement which they own. Their programs center on fostering good soil, water, and wildlife resource stewardship.

## **Wetland Management District Goals, Objectives and Strategies**

### **Future Management Direction: Where We Want To Go Tomorrow**

The planning team developed goals and objectives for three management alternatives at Tamarac WMD. These alternatives include:

- Alternative 1: Restoration and Management of Habitat that Expands Beyond Migratory Bird Benefits by Incorporating Natural Ecological Processes Where Possible
- Alternative 2: Pre-settlement Ecological Processes
- Alternative 3: Current Management Direction (No Action)

The Environmental Assessment (Appendix A) describes and evaluates each alternative. Alternative 1 is the preferred alternative and it forms the basis for the Tamarac WMD CCP. The goals, objectives and strategies are presented on the following pages. The planning team established goals for major management areas, objectives for achieving those goals, and the specific strategies that will be employed by Tamarac WMD staff. The goals are organized into the broad categories of wildlife, habitat, and people.

### **Goals, Objectives and Strategies**

**Alternative 1: Restoration and Management of Habitat that Expands Beyond Migratory Bird Ben-**

**efits by Incorporating Natural Ecological Processes Where Possible.**

#### Goal 1: Wildlife

Protect, restore and maintain a diversity of wildlife species native to habitats naturally occurring within the Tamarac WMD with special emphasis on Service Regional Conservation Priority Species

#### Objective 1.1

Within 3 years of plan approval, assimilate available information on avian presence and abundance within Tamarac WMD and identify focal areas and strategies for habitat improvement projects and land and easement acquisition that delivers maximum benefits for waterfowl and other Resource Conservation Priority (RCP) species.

#### Rationale

Protection and enhancement of migratory bird habitat is the primary purpose of the Tamarac WMD.

#### Strategies

1. Research, acquire, and incorporate existing migratory bird data from sources such as Minnesota Waterfowl Breeding Pair Counts, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes, Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas surveys, etc., into the Tamarac WMD database system. Process baseline migratory bird data and carry out priority area assessments within the Tamarac WMD to direct program actions.
2. Develop guidelines from acquired migratory bird information that will focus conservation actions and facilitate adaptive management strategies.



*Restored wetlands provide resting areas for migratory waterfowl. Photo Credit: FWS*

**Goal 2: Habitat**

To protect, restore, and enhance wetland and upland habitats, mimicking natural ecological processes where possible, within the Tamarac WMD for the benefit of RCP species

**Objective 2.1 Wetland Restoration**

Restore or enhance on average at least 60 acres of degraded wetlands on private lands per year to benefit waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife.

**Rationale**

Tamarac WMD activities have focused primarily on private land habitat restoration that benefits waterfowl and other wetland dependent species. As much as possible, wetlands have been restored to natural water levels that will fluctuate in reaction to seasonal and annual precipitation variations.

**Strategies**

1. Use the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) and Small Wetland Acquisition Programs (SWAP) to expand restoration and protection of crucial waterfowl habitats. Emphasize habitat restoration, enhancement, and acquisition actions around core wetland complexes which may include establishing or increasing secure nesting cover to elevate migratory bird productivity.
2. Identify, prioritize, and leverage funding for wetland improvement projects through diverse and innovative partnerships with governmental agencies, conservation organizations, civic groups, and private landowners.
3. Emphasize wetland conservation work within impaired waters or high priority watersheds that collectively accrues wetlands values for wildlife, water quality, flood abatement and recreational use and compliment state, county, or watershed and conservation organization priorities.
4. Assess, prioritize, and pursue enhancement and protection of the most imperiled shallow lakes in the Tamarac WMD, particularly those supporting critical wild rice resources.
5. Map and assess drained wetland resources, ownership, and restoration opportunities, forming a comprehensive database for strategic management planning.
6. Evaluate wetlands restored through the PFW Program, pursue extensions to expired habitat development agreements, and generate new habitat restoration opportunities.

7. Working through partnerships, improve riparian and stream habitats within the District.

**Objective 2.2 Wetland Management**

Maintain hydrological function of wetlands, currently totaling more than 4100 acres, under easement or PFW agreements. Acreage maintenance will increase annually as additional lands are restored and preserved.

**Rationale**

Inspection, maintenance, and enforcement activities are crucial to maintaining wetland investments and values. Routine landowner contacts and building good relationships generate partnerships, new opportunities, natural resource stewardship, and compliance.

**Strategies**

1. Annually inspect all easement wetlands through aerial reconnaissance or ground checks for conservation reservation compliance. Attempt to review all restored wetlands under an active PFW agreement once every 5 years to assess restoration effectiveness, wetland condition, wildlife use, fish impacts, and agreement compliance.
2. Recognize existing or potential fish impacts to wetlands on private and easement lands, and where feasible, employ restoration techniques or existing water control structures alterations to minimize fish impacts to wetland systems.
3. Include wetland habitats in prescribed burning plans on conservation easements and highly significant private land projects where



*Working with a private landowner. Photo Credit: FWS*

excessive woody encroachment is degrading critical wetland habitat.

4. Carry out the incorporation of the PFW program application into the GIS database system for efficient planning and management of PFW projects and easements.

### **Objective 2.3 Grassland Establishment and Management**

Judiciously select sites sustaining dynamic wetland complexes for potential establishment of grassland communities. Strive to compose a grassland unit with a large patch size and diverse assembly of native grasses and forbs.

#### **Rationale**

Grassland management has been limited on Tamarac WMD. Some abandoned cropland has reverted to tame grass and exotic broadleaf plant communities or has been re-seeded with low diversity mixes of native and non-native vegetation on easement lands. Where grazing and haying rights are retained by easement landowners, grassland enhancement may be the best option to provide benefits for migratory birds. There are also opportunities to establish diverse grasslands on private lands.

#### **Strategies**

1. Renovate conservation easement grasslands with diverse mixes of native grasses and forbs where other management alternatives are infeasible.
2. Use soils, historical documentation, and other information to evaluate potential sites for the establishment grasslands on private lands that will benefit wetland/grassland RCP species. Cost share assistance for grassland restoration on private lands will require a minimum block size of 40 acres and the presence of a significant wetland complex.
3. Work with landowners and the USDA to develop and implement rotational grazing systems on conservation easement and private lands that will improve the quality of grasslands and recruitment of related RCP species.

### **Objective 2.4 Forest Management**

Identify, prioritize, and implement forest conservation projects based on land capabilities that yield the highest benefits for Regional and Tamarac WMD priority species.

#### **Rationale**

Historically, Tamarac WMD programs have concentrated on managing habitats for wetland dependent wildlife species. The District has had limited

participation in forest improvement projects, however, opportunities abound to benefit forest dependent RCP species. A number of woodland stewardship plans developed for some former FmHA properties, are now out-dated and require revision.

#### **Strategies**

1. Acquire knowledge of the geographical distribution of Tamarac WMD landscape features such as basic land cover types, land use and ownership, watersheds, and other key spatial attributes to direct conservation actions.
2. Complete the development and manage the WMD- GIS database system.
3. Use Upper Midwest Great Lakes Land Conservation Cooperative and other partners to investigate, identify, and prioritize forest habitat enhancement projects that benefit RCP species viably residing within the Tamarac WMD.
4. Work with partners to develop and complete one PFW project per year that benefits early successional habitat or interior forest migratory birds of District priority.

### **Objective 2.5 FmHA Conservation Easement Planning and Management**

Within 5 years of approval of this plan, develop or update and implement habitat management plans on 16 FmHA conservation easements to benefit RCP species of Regional and District priority.

#### **Rationale**

Few FmHA conservation easements within the District possess habitat management plans and those that do are out-dated. Site-specific planning and management implementation is essential to restoring and maintaining these important conservation lands of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

#### **Strategies**

1. Conduct condition assessments of plant community attributes on conservation easements and prioritize disturbance treatment needs to recover key lost ecosystems components.
2. Implement various management actions such as prescribed burning, mowing, or shearing on conservation easements that maintain disturbance dependent habitats. Remove rock piles and other unnatural hostile predator habitat that threaten waterfowl production.
3. Where the Service only oversees a restrictive deed covenant, work closely with the easement



Wood Duck drake. Photo Credit: FWS

owners to employ habitat development and enhancement practices that compliment Service goals for RCP species.

#### **Objective 2.6 Exotic Plant and Animal Control.**

Promote the eradication or control of invasive plants and animals impacting native habitats on easement lands by using a variety of methods including biological agents, chemical controls, burning, mowing, grazing, and re-establishing native vegetative communities. Target species include spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, Canada thistle, common tansy, wild parsnip, and common buckthorn.

#### Rationale

Invasive species are considered one of the greatest threats to natural ecosystems. Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species, dated February 3, 1999, directs Federal agencies to use relevant programs and authorities to prevent the introduction of invasive species, detect and respond rapidly to control populations of such species, monitor invasive species infestations accurately and reliably, and promote public education on these species and methods to address them. Numerous exotic plants and pathogens have been identified in the District, with many being invasive. More invasive species are predicted to arrive in the area in the future.

#### Strategies

1. Develop a prioritization matrix that will identify invasive species of concern and strategies to minimize impacts that degrade Tamarac WMD habitats projects.
2. Participate in county weed management cooperatives that focus on controlling the spread of invasive plants threatening priority District habitats. Advocate for the use of non-chemical methods such as biological and cultural controls.

3. Provide technical assistance to landowners who bear noxious weed control responsibilities, emphasizing non-chemical alternatives such as, mowing, grazing, use of biological agents, or the application of Service-approved low toxicity herbicides.
4. Identify and inventory invasive species on FmHA conservation easements. Employ various control or eradication methods for species that fall under Service management responsibility.
5. Employ the use of Clemson leveler devices to manage nuisance beaver activity negatively impacting wetland ecosystems, upland habitat, and personal property on easement and private lands.

#### **Objective 2.7 Acquisition**

Pursue opportunities to acquire critical habitat for Service trust resources through fee title or easement purchase, where PFW program agreements and other natural resource agency programs are insufficient to fulfill perpetual protection needs.

#### Rationale

As of 2010, no lands have been acquired in fee-title and no additional easements have been conveyed since the 1990s within the Tamarac WMD. There are opportunities for growth. Where critical habitat is threatened and other program options are not viable, acquisition provides an invaluable tool for perpetual protection.

#### Strategies

1. Develop landscape based strategies for acquisition of easements or fee-titled lands that profit RCP species, support local and state clean water initiatives, improve shallow lake ecosystems, abate forest fragmentation, and restores wildlife corridors.
2. Establish goal acres for each Tamarac WMD county for easement and Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) acquisition and incorporate into the Tamarac WMD HMP.
3. Acquire a minimum of one perpetual easement or one WPA per year over the next 15 years. Continue to identify and pursue opportunities to purchase additional wetland easements in the Tamarac WMD.

### Goal 3: People

Build relationships and partnerships with people and organizations to promote ecologically sound land stewardship.

#### **Objective 3.1: Environmental Education, Interpretation and Outreach**

The majority of rural landowners and partners within the Tamarac WMD will be aware of the opportunities for habitat restoration and management offered by the Service.

##### *Rationale*

Environmental education, interpretation and outreach are important and valuable activities for landowners, neighbors and visitors to WMD lands. We should embrace opportunities to use the restored habitats on the WMD to demonstrate sound wildlife conservation techniques and land stewardship.

##### *Strategies*

1. Build a partnership with the Clearwater County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to enhance their soil and water stewardship education program, promote Tamarac WMD programs, and generate support for Service trust resource objectives. The Lawrence FmHA Conservation Easement is used as a land conservation demonstration site and activity center for the SWCD's education program. Assist the SWCD in pursuing grant opportunities to upgrade and enhance their educational facility and program.
2. Educate and engage TIA in Tamarac WMD management and outreach activities. Explore partnership opportunities for restorations, grant programs, and volunteer stewardship projects.
3. Promote greater public awareness and support of the Service's mission and Tamarac WMD objectives through a variety of media including website, literature distribution, newspaper, radio, TV, and interpretive presentations to target audiences.
4. Inform and involve private easement owners in management planning so they appreciate and support Tamarac WMD objectives to restore, enhance, and protect Federal trust resources through ecologically sound natural resource management practices.
5. Tamarac WMD staff will conduct a minimum of one environmental education, interpretive, or outreach activity per year in the District.

#### **Objective 3.2 Enforcement**

The Tamarac WMD will inspect all easements as well as future acquired lands each year to ensure the perpetuation of entrusted wildlife resources and government property. Violations that involve theft, damage, alteration, or destruction of wildlife, habitat, or government property will be immediately addressed and resolved within one year from the date of detection.

##### *Rationale*

Refuge officers need to enforce the conservation provisions and restrictive covenants attached to Federal wetland easements and former FmHA inventory lands within the District. Conservation provisions primarily restrict agricultural use and development on easement lands. Enforcement operations are crucial to preserving these important natural resources.

##### *Strategies*

1. Tamarac WMD staff will inspect easements and any future acquired lands at least once annually through aerial reconnaissance or ground checks to confirm compliance and identify contraventions.
2. Hire a full-time Refuge law enforcement officer whose duties will be shared by the refuge and Tamarac WMD.
3. Relocate or survey, and post all former FmHA conservation easement boundaries to solicit landowner compliance with easement reservations and to facilitate any needed litigation.

#### **Objective 3.3 Partnerships**

The Tamarac WMD will cooperate and partner with USDA, Minnesota DNR, tribal government, and conservation organization on initiatives that further Service goals for migratory birds and other Regional RCP Species.

##### *Rationale*

Partnerships have become an essential element for the successful accomplishment of Tamarac WMD goals, objectives, and strategies. The objectives outlined in this draft CCP need the support and the partnerships of federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations and individual citizens. This broad-based approach to managing fish and wildlife resources extends beyond social and political boundaries and requires a foundation of support from many entities. Tamarac WMD will continue to seek creative partnership opportunities to achieve its vision for the future.

### *Strategies*

1. Hire one full-time wetland district manager to plan, organize, and implement management actions and provide oversight on all Service easements within the District. This position would engage, coordinate, and partner with state and local government officials and conservation interest groups to further the Service's conservation mission, including future acquisitions of fee title and easements.
2. Use operational and grant funding to cost share a variety of habitat improvement projects within the District.
3. Render technical assistance to state and Federal agencies involving programs such as RIM, WCA, CRP, WRP, EQIP, WHIP, and other Farm Bill responsibilities that advance Service population and habitat goals for Federal trust resources.
4. Pursue or contribute to partnerships that enhance or preserve vulnerable and critical resources of Service importance. Examples of potential conservation partnership projects include riparian restoration, fish passage, remnant native prairie preservation, shallow lake enhancement, and white pine forest restoration.

### **Plan Implementation**

This CCP outlines an ambitious course of action for the future management of the Tamarac WMD. The ability to enhance wildlife habitats will require a significant commitment of staff and funding from the Service. The Refuge and District will continually need appropriate operational and maintenance funding to implement the objectives in this plan.

Chapter 5 provides a brief description of the highest priority Tamarac NWR and WMD projects as chosen by the Refuge.

