Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership

**Total Funding Appropriated by the 2020 Minnesota Legislature:** $4,493,000

- **OVERALL:** This Outdoor Heritage Fund grant awarded $4,493,000 to four conservation partners to permanently protect and restore at least 402 acres, with emphasis on lands with restorable wetlands that will provide both significant wildlife habitat and water storage potential.

- The Heron Lake Watershed District will receive $801,000 to hire a Conservation Technician to proactively contact prospective landowners, explain conservation options for flood-prone land, build relationships to develop conservation opportunities, and assist with implementation. The HLWD will administer the overall grant, including partner coordination and six-month status reports due to the LSOHC, and will use $581,100 of this grant for contracts to restore lands eased by the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT).

- MLT will receive $1,061,000 to purchase conservation easements on private land to protect at least 156 acres and will work with the HLWD and partners to restore eased land.

- Pheasants Forever (PF) will receive $1,181,000 to purchase and restore at least 127 acres for transfer to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and/or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

- Ducks Unlimited will receive $1,450,000 to purchase and restore at least 119 acres for the Minnesota DNR and will provide professional wetland engineering assistance to help PF and MLT restore lands they protect too, if/as needed.
Less than 1% of wetlands remain in the Heron Lake watershed. This appropriation will protect and restore at least 402 acres of prairie and wetland habitat within the Heron Lake watershed.