

# 2008 Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Partner Habitat Accomplishments

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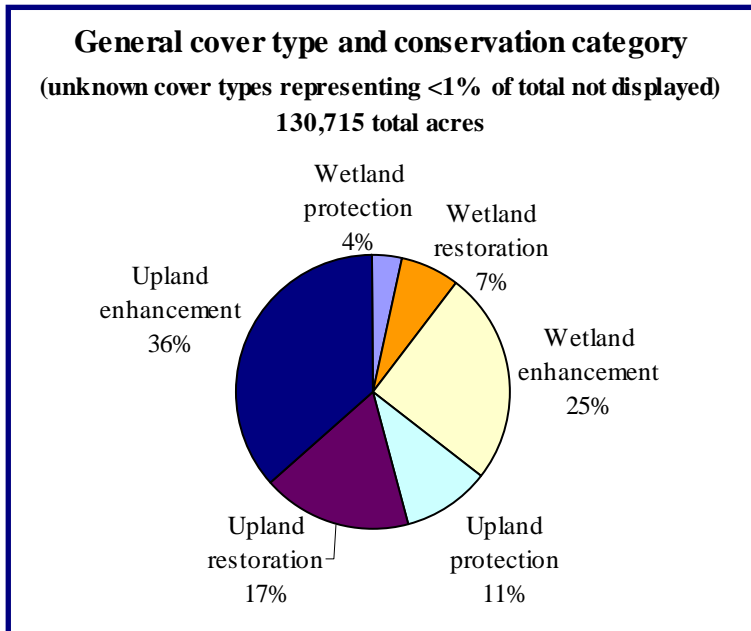
## Introduction

Fifteen partners within the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture submitted habitat accomplishment reports for conservation actions completed in 2008. Tracking habitat accomplishments provides valuable information on the land area influenced by the partnership and funding expended to accomplish habitat conservation for birds.

The 2008 reporting form was consistent with the previous year, which established a method to track progress toward habitat objectives in the 2007 Implementation Plan. Within this plan, a science based process was used to calculate habitat objectives that better reflect the needs of priority birds in specific cover types. This greater level of planning detail necessitated a more specific level of tracking. Estimates of partner influence on bird populations will improve with continued partner tracking and land change monitoring.

## Accomplishments

The partnership reported habitat management on 130,715 acres expending approximately \$58 million. Generally, enhancement of existing habitat was the greatest conservation action (36% upland and 25% wetland), followed by restoration of uplands (17%) and wetlands (7%). Rounding out the total was upland protection (11%) and wetland protection (4%). An additional 1,703 acres of unknown cover types were protected representing less than 1% of the total.



Eight partners reported conservation actions for specific upland cover types totaling 63,896 acres. In addition, 19,400 acres of unknown upland cover types were reported. Of those acres reported to specific cover types, the major conservation action was enhancement of grasslands (43%). When restoration and protection of grassland was included, over 65% of the total upland work consisted of conservation actions for

grasslands. Shrubland enhancement was 15% of the total with a majority (99%) of this reported in Missouri. Finally, actions for deciduous forest represented 18% of the total.

Breaking the general wetland category into sub-cover types show majority of conservation actions being conducted on marsh wetlands. Meanwhile, conservation for mudflats, shallows, open water, and beach represent <1% of the conservation effort. The distribution of conservation effort for specific wetland cover types was not analyzed because of large unknown categories.

Partners were given the option to spatially identify work to the county level. Although a few partners did not have the capability to report at this level, several partners were able to complete this step. With enough partner involvement, assumptions

about the spatial distribution of management compared to bird population response can be made. This analysis has yet to be completed and will require multiple years of spatially tracking partner accomplishments, land cover change, and bird populations.

**Acknowledgements**

We thank the partners for their involvement in bird habitat conservation and tracking conservation actions. Their contribution is vital to bird conservation in the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes region.

