

2009 Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Habitat Conservation Accomplishments

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Introduction

Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (JV) partners submit bird habitat accomplishments to the Joint Venture Office each year. Tracking partner conservation actions provides valuable information on the land area influenced by the partnership, as well as a measure of the funding expended to accomplish established goals.

In 2009, the accomplishment reporting form was changed from the previous version. The 2007 - 2008 report form mirrored the level of cover type description in the 2007 JV Implementation Plan. Although this level of detail is ideal, several partner agencies struggled with reporting, and incomplete/inconsistent responses reduced the usability of the information they provided. To overcome this issue, partners were surveyed by JV staff and the identified reporting impediments were addressed. The new 2009 form was considered a success; reports were completed more consistently. Estimates of the partnership's influence on bird populations will improve with continued partner tracking and monitoring of landscape changes.

2009 Accomplishments

The JV partnership reported accomplishments on 262,909 acres expending approximately \$93.5 million. Bird habitat enhancement was the primary conservation action (50% of the reported area), followed by restoration (40%), and protection (10%).

Enhancement highlights

- 35,450 acres of wetlands enhanced across the region
- Majority of emergent marsh enhancement occurred in BCRs 12 and 23
- Mudflat and shallow water enhancement was focused in BCR 22
- 93,550 acres of uplands enhanced across the region
- 58,700 acres of grassland, with 54,080 acres reported for BCR 22
- 34,800 acres of woodland, with 19,680 acres in BCR 12

Restoration highlights

- 8,300 acres of wetlands restored across the region
- Majority of acres were emergent marsh in BCR 22
- 98,672 acres of upland cover restored
- 97% of upland restoration was grasslands
- BCR 22 had the greatest amount of grassland or woodland restored

Protection highlights

- 6,000 acres of wetlands protected across the region
- 2,250 acres of emergent marsh was protected in BCR 23 and 2,000 acres in BCR 22
- 21,000 acres of uplands protected
- Majority of upland acres were forest cover types in BCR 12

JV cumulative accomplishments since Implementation Plan completion (2007 – 2009)

Cumulative accomplishments are compiled for two categories: protection and restoration / enhancement. Protection accomplishments represent new areas under management of a conservation organization through acquisition or long-term agreements (easements). Restoration / enhancement accomplishments represent additional area available for bird species through manipulations in cover type or quality at a site. Since 2007, JV partners have restored or enhanced 408,400 acres in the region. Also during this time, 63,100 acres of bird habitat were protected. Comparing the cumulative total of accomplishments against the 2007 JV Implementation Plan objectives identifies the percent of plan objectives achieved. These percentages were calculated for restoration / enhancement objectives and are presented in Tables 1 and 2. These percentages are not calculated for protection objectives because a complete assessment of the area of various cover types protected before 2007 has not been completed. Current data is insufficient for this assessment.

Acknowledgements

Joint Venture partners in the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes region are transitioning from largely opportunistic conservation to science-based and targeted actions following the 2007 JV Implementation Plan. Bird habitat objectives and decisions-support maps were developed by the JV Science Team to increase efficiency and effectiveness of bird habitat delivery. However, the engine for bird conservation in the JV region remains in habitat delivery, and partner accomplishments in 2009 were impressive. Moreover, the measure of partner success toward JV bird habitat goals is currently dependent on accomplishment tracking. In 2009, JV agencies and organizations provided the most useful reports to date.

Table 1. Percent of wetland objectives accomplished (%) and cumulative acres (2007 - 2009) restored and enhanced by the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture compared to habitat objectives identified in the 2007 Joint Venture Implementation Plan. Cumulative totals for BCRs represent data from 2009 partner accomplishment reports; data from 2007 - 2008 were reported by state and are included in the "unknown" category. Percent (%) = the cumulative total / objective * 100.

State	BCR	Marsh ^a			Mudflat / Shallows ^b			Open water / Beach ^c		
		Objective	Cumulative total	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%
Iowa	22	23,356	5,478	23.45	55,117	164	0.30	2,974	0	0.00
	23	2,471	0	0.00	3,184	0	0.00	796	0	0.00
	Unknown		5,279			410			0	
	Total	25,827	10,757	41.65	58,301	574	0.98	3,770	0	0.00
Illinois	22	22,542	10	0.04	63,163	80	0.13	3,584	0	0.00
	23	1,649	0	0.00	1,487	0	0.00	376	0	0.00
	24	1,995	2,011	100.80	2,484	0	0.00	230	0	0.00
	Unknown		174			212			22	
Total	26,186	2,195	8.38	67,134	292	0.43	4,190	22	0.53	
Indiana	22	14,781	432	2.92	22,852	0	0.00	1,242	0	0.00
	23	9,086	18	0.20	5,795	0	0.00	1,445	0	0.00
	24	4,337	0	0.00	4,612	0	0.00	388	0	0.00
	Unknown		1,371			80			40	
Total	28,204	1,821	6.46	33,259	80	0.24	3,075	40	1.30	
Kansas	22/Total	4,344	269	6.19	33,705	48	0.14	2,018	10	0.50
Michigan	12	66,795	957	1.43	4,945	492	9.95	8,882	0	0.00
	22	1,440	876	60.83	2,124	0	0.00	175	0	0.00
	23	56,881	3,269	5.75	25,869	0	0.00	7,289	0	0.00
	Unknown		4,381			0			0	
Total	125,116	9,483	7.58	32,938	492	1.49	16,346	0	0.00	
Minnesota	12	75,321	1,975	2.62	4,668	na	na	7,128	na	na
	22	5,412	na ^d	na	3,959	na	na	207	na	na
	23	86,643	na	na	11,473	na	na	2,835	na	na
	Unknown		165			0			0	
Total	167,376	2,140	1.28	20,100	0	0.00	10,170	0	0.00	
Missouri	22/Total	5,167	32,419	627.42	42,304	25,281	59.76	2,440	0	0.00
Nebraska	22/Total	5,985	0	0.00	11,323	220	1.94	649	0	0.00
Ohio	13	8,784	na	na	7,057	na	na	7,457	na	na
	22	12,517	na	na	26,758	na	na	4,515	na	na
	24	170	na	na	4,895	na	na	524	na	na
	Unknown		479			274			0	
Total	21,471	479	2.23	38,710	274	0.71	12,496	0	0.00	
Wisconsin	12	31,652	322	1.02	2,617	0	0.00	12,503	58	0.46
	22	1,428	1	0.07	760	0	0.00	311	0	0.00
	23	159,326	1,619	1.02	42,882	0	0.00	28,543	53	0.19
	Unknown		5,032			20			99	
Total	192,406	6,974	3.62	46,259	20	0.04	41,357	210	0.51	
All states	12	173,768	3,254	1.87	12,230	492	4.02	28,513	58	0.20
	13	8,784	0	0.00	7,057	0	0.00	7,457	0	0.00
	22	96,972	39,485	40.72	262,065	25,793	9.84	18,115	10	0.06
	23	316,056	4,906	1.55	90,690	0	0.00	41,284	53	0.13
	24	6,502	2,011	30.93	11,991	0	0.00	1,142	0	0.00
	Unknown		16,881			996			161	
Total	602,082	66,537	11.05	384,033	27,281	7.10	96,511	282	0.29	

^aMarsh category includes wet meadow with open water, shallow semi-permanent marsh, hemi-marsh, deep-water marsh, and marsh with associated shrub / forest. The larger value for shallow semi-permanent marsh, hemi-marsh between breeding and non-breeding season objectives at the state/BCR level was used. Deep water marsh values for the breeding season were used because objectives were greater than the non-breeding season.

^bMudflat / shallows category includes dry mudflat / agriculture, wet mudflat / moist soil plants, shallow water, and moderate water. Dry mudflat / agriculture values for the breeding season were used because objectives were greater than the non-breeding season.

^cOpen water / beach category includes extensive open water and beach. The larger value for beach between breeding and non-breeding season objectives at the state/BCR level was used.

^dNot available

Table 2. Percent of upland objectives accomplished (%) and cumulative acres restored and enhanced (2007 - 2009) by the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture compared to habitat objectives identified in the 2007 Joint Venture Implementation Plan. Percent (%) = the cumulative total / objective * 100.

State	BCR	Grassland ^a			Woodland ^b			Total Upland ^c		
		Objective	Cumulative total ^d	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%
Iowa	22	4,250,376	107,060	2.52	2,717	4,881	179.65	4,253,093	111,941	2.63
	23	216,619	0	0.00	0	0	100.00	216,619	0	0.00
	Unknown								45,506	
	Total	4,466,995	107,060	2.40	2,717	4,881	179.65	4,469,712	157,447	3.52
Illinois	22	3,777,124	6,157	0.16	26,676	3,857	14.46	3,803,800	10,014	0.26
	23	86,944	68	0.08	4,940	3,044	61.62	91,884	3,112	3.39
	24	829,426	110	0.01	59,527	5,029	8.45	888,953	5,139	0.58
	Unknown								5,685	
Total	4,693,494	6,335	0.13	91,143	11,930	13.09	4,784,637	23,950	0.50	
Indiana	22	952,185	678	0.07	270,218	233	0.09	1,222,403	911	0.07
	23	223,535	352	0.16	75,829	5	0.01	299,364	357	0.12
	24	1,080,625	798	0.07	656,032	1,122	0.17	1,736,657	1,920	0.11
	Unknown								1,538	
Total	2,256,345	1,828	0.08	1,002,079	1,360	0.14	3,258,424	4,726	0.15	
Kansas	22/Total	2,782,949	1,513	0.05	6,422	20	0.31	2,789,371	1,533	0.05
Michigan	12	206,986	1,452	0.70	395,200	7,526	1.90	602,186	8,978	1.49
	22	69,901	136	0.19	34,580	2	0.01	104,481	138	0.13
	23	334,685	1,831	0.55	700,986	619	0.09	1,035,671	2,450	0.24
	Unknown								4,897	
Total	611,572	3,419	0.56	1,130,766	8,147	0.72	1,742,338	16,463	0.94	
Minnesota	12	242,060	0	0.00	800,280	9,908	1.24	1,042,340	9,908	0.95
	22	222,300	0	0.00	0	0	100.00	222,300	0	0.00
	23	736,060	0	0.00	191,919	0	0.00	927,979	0	0.00
	Unknown		0						0	
Total	1,200,420	0	0.00	992,199	9,908	1.00	2,192,619	9,908	0.45	
Missouri	22/Total	5,536,999	32,797	0.59	79,040	2,209	2.79	5,616,039	93,494	1.66
Nebraska	22/Total	1,247,597	644	0.05	0	0	100.00	1,247,597	1,531	0.12
Ohio	13	277,875	0	0.00	244,283	0	0.00	522,158	0	0.00
	22	762,736	0	0.00	406,068	0	0.00	1,168,804	0	0.00
	24	6,422	0	0.00	8,892	0	0.00	15,314	0	0.00
	Unknown		0						0	
Total	1,047,033	0	0.00	659,243	0	0.00	1,706,276	0	0.00	
Wisconsin	12	69,901	0	0.00	518,700	2,291	0.44	588,601	2,291	0.39
	22	14,079	0	0.00	988	0	0.00	15,067	0	0.00
	23	1,831,999	1,102	0.06	716,300	36	0.01	2,548,299	1,138	0.04
	Unknown								1,803	
Total	1,915,979	1,102	0.06	1,235,988	2,327	0.19	3,151,967	5,232	0.17	
All states	12	518,947	1,452	0.28	1,714,180	19,725	1.15	2,233,127	21,177	0.95
	13	277,875	0	0.00	244,283	0	0.00	522,158	0	0.00
	22	19,616,246	148,985	0.76	826,709	11,202	1.36	20,442,955	219,562	1.07
	23	3,429,842	3,353	0.10	1,689,974	3,704	0.22	5,119,816	7,057	0.14
	24	1,916,473	908	0.05	724,451	6,151	0.85	2,640,924	7,059	0.27
	Unknown		0			0			59,429	
	Total	25,759,383	154,698	0.60	5,199,597	40,782	0.78	30,958,980	314,284	1.02

^aGrassland category includes grassland and mixed wooded openland.

^bWoodland category includes deciduous forest, evergreen forest, forested wetland, shrubland, and other forest.

^cTotal upland includes both grassland and woodland totals; reports from 2007 - 2008 grouped woodland and grassland objectives. These data were identified by states and are included in the "unknown" category.

^dCumulative totals for BCRs separated by woodland and grassland categories only represent data from 2009 partner accomplishment reports.