



# Rice Lake Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Improvement



## Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$250,000
Leveraged Funds*	\$2,526,000
Total Project Budget	\$2,776,000

\* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

### Targeted Water:

Rice Lake Wetland, Pelican River, Detroit Lake, Muskrat, Sallie and Melissa Lakes

### Project Sponsor:

Pelican River Watershed District

### Partners:

Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, MPCA, MN DNR - Wildlife and Waters Divisions, City of Detroit Lakes, private landowners

### Grant Period:

January 2010 - December 2011

### Project Contact:

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## Project Narrative

The District initiated a project in 2003, called "The Nutrient Reductions to Detroit Lake Project", to improve the water quality of Detroit Lake, downstream lakes, and the watershed area. It also promoted a healthy recreation-based economy for the Detroit Lakes region in northwestern Minnesota.

From its monitoring program, the District identified the upstream ditched Rice Lake wetland as the highest source of phosphorus entering Detroit Lake. The quality was worse than untreated urban stormwater runoff. To reduce phosphorous loading by 600-1,600 Kg/year from the wetland, the water level is being increased by an average of two feet by the construction of two dam structures, a road elevation improvement, and ditch modifications.

There are numerous technical design and real estate aspects to getting a project like this built. The Clean Water Fund grant is assisting with the engineering and construction designs and partial assistance with purchase of flowage easements. Engineering designs for the structures and road improvements started in August 2010. In early 2011, flowage easements will be completed for the project and cover approximately 896 acres.

In addition to the water quality benefits, approximately 78 additional acres of Type I wetland vegetation will be restored and approximately 462 acres of Type 2 through 7 wetlands will be created or enhanced. This expansion includes 178 acres of Type 3 wetland to enhance needed primary brooding and nesting habitat for several species of migratory waterfowl.

