

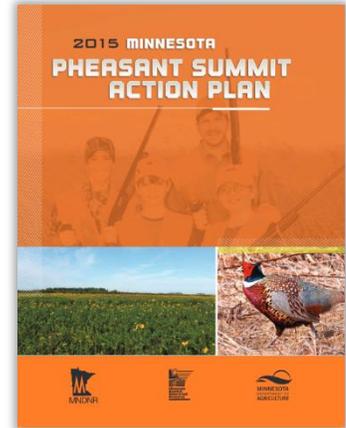


# Taking Action for Pheasants

## October 2015 Snapshots

On Monday, September 14, more than 140 people joined Governor Dayton, agency leadership, conservation groups and others in Nicollet, Minnesota. The reason? Pheasants. Specifically, the Pheasant Summit Action Plan, which was developed to address concerns about the long-term health of the state's pheasant population.

The plan is the direct result of the 2014 Minnesota Pheasant Summit, which identified the need to revitalize Minnesota's pheasant hunting tradition and improve pheasant habitat. A steering committee comprised of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, and Hunting Works gathered ideas generated from the summit and fine-tuned them. The end result is a plan that outlines ten steps that will make the biggest difference to increase our state's pheasant population.



*BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke joined Governor Dayton, DNR Commissioner Landwehr, and others at the Action Plan release last month.*

Understanding that habitat loss is one of the drivers of the decline in pheasant population, enhancing and protecting existing habitat and creating new habitat are a priority. One of the key components of the Pheasant Summit Action Plan is increasing private land conservation.

"We have the programs in place to make this plan a reality," BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. "BWSR looks forward accelerating our work with DNR, Pheasants Forever, other conservation partners, local governments and landowners to provide more permanent habitat protection on private lands through the ReInvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program."

Another of the action items? Develop and implement a comprehensive riparian buffer program. During the 2015 session the Legislature passed buffer legislation that establishes buffers along rivers, streams, and ditches to help filter out nutrients and sediments from the water. These buffers also have the potential to provide habitat benefits.

"Pheasants and pheasant hunting are vitally important to Minnesota. 95% of the pheasant range is located on private lands, so we know how important the state-local-private landowner partnership is to make this plan work," DNR Pheasant Action Plan Coordinator Kevin Lines said.

To learn more about the ten action items, and to read the plan in its entirety, visit: [www.mndnr.gov/pheasantsummit](http://www.mndnr.gov/pheasantsummit).