

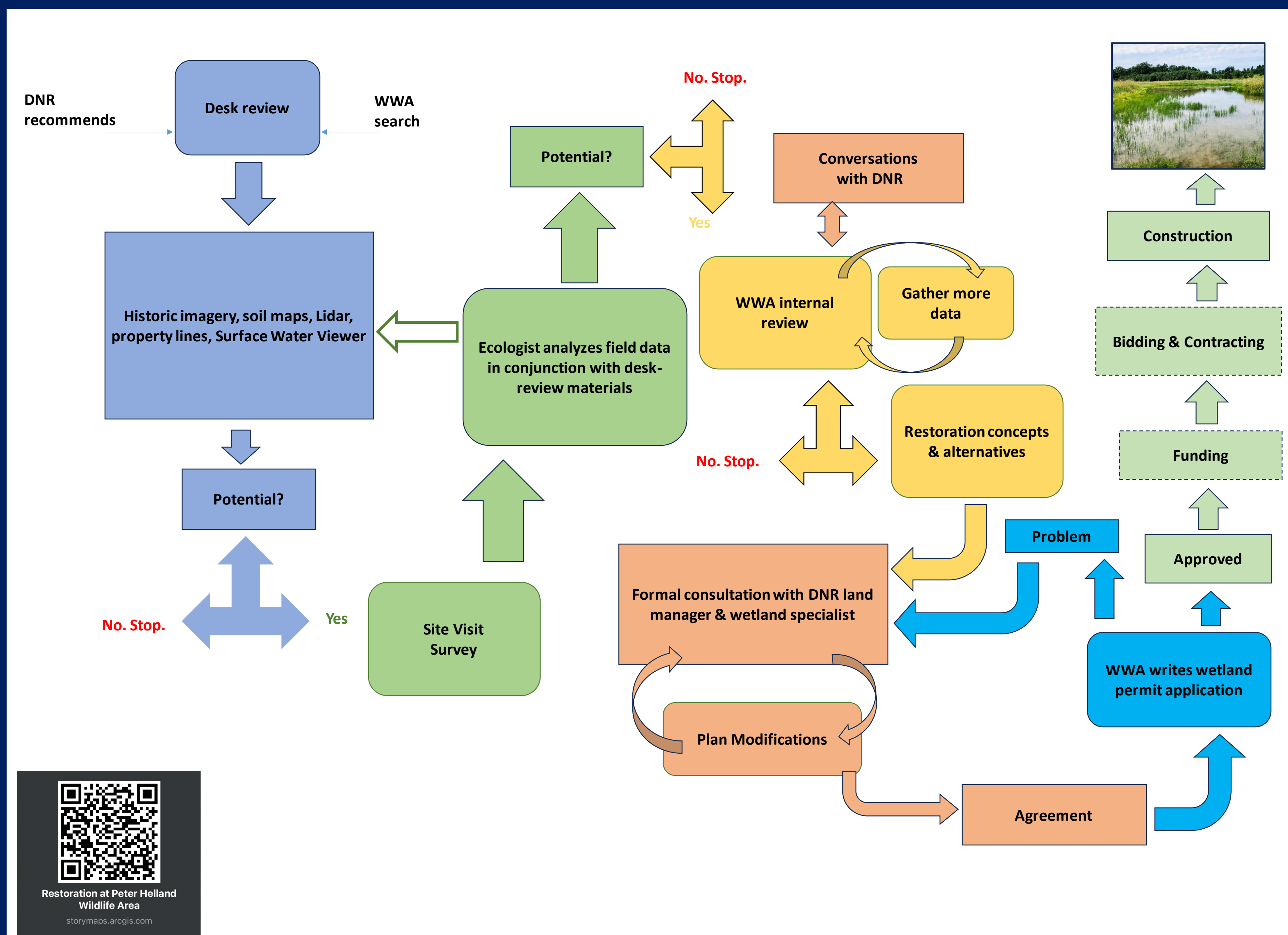
## Why this partnership?

The Wisconsin DNR does not have the staff capacity or experience to search for wetland restoration opportunities across the 1.4 million acres that it manages throughout the state. That led to an agreement between the DNR and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association in which WWA is charged with searching for wetland restoration opportunities and presenting restoration ideas to property managers and wetland specialists. Collaboration continues until a restoration plan is reached. WWA writes the wetland permit application and oversees the project.

## Considerations:

- 1) Reduce long-term management costs by restoring a site's historic hydrology while also minimizing infrastructure.
- 2) Disabling drain tiles or ditches is not feasible on many properties due to property line elevations; however, we will work with interested landowners, when possible, to restore wetlands on both sides of the property line.
- 3) A site's recreational history and use may influence or limit restoration opportunities

**To date:** 145 properties have been reviewed; 15 have progressed beyond desk review; 1 has been permitted (Navarino WA); and the design for two (Peter Helland WA and Brooklyn WA) are nearing completion.



## Supporting Wild Rice Restoration in Wisconsin's Ceded Territories

Wild rice provides both food and cover for wildlife and is a culturally important food source for humans. As a nutritious food source that ripens in late summer/early fall, wild rice is important to migrating waterfowl. The dense nature of wild rice stands provides habitat for secretive marsh birds such as Virginia rails and soras.

The relationship between tribes and wild rice has existed for centuries, having great cultural and spiritual significance. Traditional ecological knowledge plays an important role in wild rice conservation efforts, and close coordination between the WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and individual tribes help inform managers' efforts to restore wild rice populations.

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association is supporting DNR efforts to manage and restore wild rice in Wisconsin's Ceded Territories. Staff & volunteers collected 250 lbs. of wild rice in 2023, which was then given to the DNR to sow on other flowages. WWA also purchased an additional 1,400 lbs. which was planted on DNR priority sites.

In 2019, GLIFWC identified 368 waters with documented wild rice within the Ceded Territories, which will keep WWA busy for at least the term of this agreement.

