

2005 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2008

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: 2.2 - Grassland Enhancement and Restoration Initiative

PROJECT MANAGER: Matt Holland

AFFILIATION: Pheasants Forever

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FUNDING SOURCE: Minnesota Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5b.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$50,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Twenty-seven projects totaling 386.1 acres were completed as a result of the Grassland Enhancement & Restoration Initiative which expended \$46,004.59 in ETF funds and \$14,170.73 in matching funds to complete. In addition, a MN Wanner ATV pump sprayer was purchased on 02/15/06 using \$2,000 in grant and \$1,105 in partner funding. This equipment improves the safety of personnel and volunteers and improves the ability to conduct prescription burns on wet or rugged terrain. Personnel to administer and coordinate the restoration of grassland habitats totaled \$1,995.41 of ETF Funds and \$344.79 in matching funds. Restoration of grasslands within the Metro Area Wildlife Corridors Project is important to the conservation of soil, water, wildlife, and quality of life (open space) in the metropolitan area. Working hand in hand with landowners interested in restoring and managing grasslands is vital to future of conservation efforts in Minnesota. Many local partners in addition to the landowners were involved including the local USDA office staff and several SWCD's. The support provided to assist landowners in restoring their land into grassland habitats was important to the success of the program.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This project was promoted to landowners through the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts who have established relationships with landowners and access to USDA conservation programs that assist Minnesota landowners who wish to restore habitat on their farmlands. The results of this and all Metro Area Wildlife Corridors projects can be seen on the land and promoted by the partnership and in conjunction with the LCCMR and participating partner organizations and agencies.

LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: August 8, 2008

LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: 2.2
Grassland Enhancement and Restoration Initiative

Project Manager: Matt Holland
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Location: Within mapped Focus Area and within the counties of Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, LeSueur, Nicollet, Rice, Scott, Chisago, Isanti and Sibley.

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$50,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$50,000
	Equal Balance:	\$ - 0 -

Legal Citation: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5b.

Appropriation Language: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II. \$1,765,000 the first year and \$1,765,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the second biennium for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with the Trust for Public Land, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, improving, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2 and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2008, at which time the project

must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

II & III FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Twenty-seven projects totaling 386.1 acres were completed as a result of the Grassland Enhancement & Restoration Initiative which expended \$46,004.59 in ETF funds and \$14,170.73 in matching funds to complete. In addition, a MN Wanner ATV pump sprayer was purchased on 02/15/06 using \$2,000 in grant and \$1,105 in partner funding. This equipment improves the safety of personnel and volunteers and improves the ability to conduct prescription burns on wet or rugged terrain. Personnel to administer and coordinate the restoration of grassland habitats totaled \$1,995.41 of ETF Funds and \$344.79 in matching funds. Restoration of grasslands within the Metro Area Wildlife Corridors Project is important to the conservation of soil, water, wildlife, and quality of life (open space) in the metropolitan area. Working hand in hand with landowners interested in restoring and managing grasslands is vital to future of conservation efforts in Minnesota. Many local partners in addition to the landowners were involved including the local USDA office staff and several SWCD's. The support provided to assist landowners in restoring their land into grassland habitats was important to the success of the program.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Grassland Development

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCMR Budget	\$ 46,004.59
	Expended	\$ 46,004.59
	Balance*	\$ - 0 -

*\$1,004.59 from original proposed amount came from result 3

Final Report Summary: Pheasants Forever and cooperating landowners and partners completed 385.6 total acres of grassland restoration through this initiative. Pheasants Forever expended \$46,004.59 in ETF funds and \$15,275.73 of matching funds.

Result 2: Purchase Prescription Burning Equipment

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCCMR Budget	\$ 2,000
	LCCMR Expended	\$ 2,000
	Balance	\$ - 0 -

Final Report Summary: A MN Wanner ATV pump sprayer was purchased on 02/15/06 using \$2,000 in grant and \$1,105 in partner funding.

Result 3: Personnel – Administer program

Description: Pheasants Forever staff administered and coordinated the program. Only time spent directly on administration or coordination is claimed.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCCMR Budget	\$ 1,995.41
	LCCMR Expended	\$ 1,995.41
	Balance*	\$ - 0 -

*Balance from original proposed amount (\$1004.59) spent in result 1.

Final Report Summary: PF expended \$1,995.41 to administer and coordinate the work found within this proposal. \$1,004.59 of the originally proposed funds for this result were expended under result 1 to get more resource restoration completed.

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$1,995.41

All Results: Equipment: \$2,000

All Results: Development: \$46,004.59

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$50,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

V. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: See Table 1.

B. Other Funds being Spent during the Project Period: \$15,275.73 in matching contributions were made for results 1 & 2 from PF and other partners including landowners participating in the program. PF contributed an additional \$344.79 in personnel expense towards the project.

C. Required Match (if applicable): NA

D. Past Spending: Local Pheasants Forever chapters have spent funding on various small grassland restoration and enhancement projects within the area. However, no organized program has been completed.

E. Time: Grant ended June 30, 2008.

VII. DISSEMINATION: Metro Corridors will periodically distribute information about the program through the widely broadcasted emails to people on the Regional Greenways Collaborative (RGC) database, through the RGC quarterly meetings, and jointly held county meetings. As projects are completed, Pheasants Forever will announce accomplishments through local press releases and on the Minnesota PF web site.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Final Report is dated August 8, 2008. The delay is due to funding cycle and coordination with SWCD and USDA billing cycles. Additionally, we had a project officer change which added complexity to completing the final report.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Metro Corridors Project

date: 8/8/2008

Project Title:

2.2 Grassland Enhancement and Restoration Initiative

FINAL ATTACHEMENT A

Project Manager Name:

Matt Holland

LCMR Requested Dollars:

\$ 50,000

BUDGET ITEM	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	Comments
PERSONNEL				
Staff expenses, wages, salaries, & benefits	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,995.41	\$ 1,004.59	[.03 FTE Project Manager (Aaron Kuehl); .02 FTE - accounting / reimbursements (Ron Leathers / Alan Ferguson)]
EQUIPMENT				
Equipment / Tools	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	[burning equipment - ATV Water Rig or misc safety equipment - radios, backpack sprayers]
EQUIPMENT - SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
DEVELOPMENT				
Contracts	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 46,004.59	\$ (1,004.59)	[enhance / restore 120 ac native grasslands - establishment, interseeding, burning, discing, woody cover removal. Work contracted with PF habitat team, chapters or other private contractors]
DEVELOPMENT - SUBTOTAL	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 46,004.59	\$ (1,004.59)	
TOTAL LCMR Funding	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00	