

Date of Report: May 30, 1997
Date of Next Program Update: January 1, 1998
Date of Work plan Approval: June 4, 1996
Project Completion Date: See page 4 (V. Context, B. Time)

M-5

10(a)
(b)
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LCMR Work Program 1997

I. Project Title: RIM- Wildlife Habitat Acquisition

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1997 Appropriation

1. Legal Citation: ML 1997, Chap. _____, Sec. 15, Subd. 17(l).
RIM - Wildlife Habitat Acquisition \$500,000
This appropriation is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate acquisition of North American Waterfowl Management Plan wetlands and associated uplands on a cost share basis and wildlife habitat in areas of high population growth.

2. Allocation of Funds: The agency proposes the following allocation:
\$300,000 North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Project Acquisitions
\$200,000 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) acquisitions in "high population corridor"
\$500,000 Total

B. Current Appropriations/Recommendations: Amounts in thousands

Fund	Year	Approp.	Liquid.	Encumb.	Balance
Bonding					
RIM Wildlife Acquisition ¹	1994	1,700	1,647	0	53
RIM Wildlife & Nat. Area Acq. ³	1996	500	48	0	452
SUBTOTAL		2,200	1,695	0	505
Environmental Trust Fund					
RIM Accel. Wildlife Land Acq. ²	1995	510	510	0	0
RIM Wildlife Habitat Acq.	1997	500	0	0	500
Future Resources Fund					
RIM Accel. Wildlife Land Acq. ²	1995	140	140	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		3,350	2345	0	1,005

A. Legal Citations:

1994 Appropriations

1. M.L. 1994, Chapter 643, Section 23, Subd. 23. \$4,000,000

RIM Wildlife and Natural Area Land Acquisition. To acquire land related to wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas and prairie bank easements. The commissioner shall determine project priorities as appropriate based on need.

(The total 1994 bonding appropriation for RIM Wildlife and Natural Area Land Acquisition was \$4,000,000. The agency has allocated \$1,000,000 to NAWMP acquisitions and \$700,000 to WMA acquisitions.)

1995 Appropriations

2. M.L. 1995, Chapter 220, Section 19, Subd. 10(a). \$650,000

\$510,000 of this appropriation is from the trust fund and \$140,000 is from the future resource's fund to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate acquisition activities in the Reinvest in Minnesota program by acquiring land identified in North American Waterfowl Management Plan project area. This appropriation must first be used for projects that qualify for a match, which may include costs for acquisition, enhancements, and wetland restoration.

1996 Appropriations

3. ML 1996, Chap. 463, Sec. 7, Subd. 22. \$3,500,000

To acquire land for wildlife management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.135; to acquire land for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.033; to acquire native prairie bank easements under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96; for the critical habitat private sector matching account under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.943; and for acquisition and wetland restoration under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The commissioner shall determine project priorities as appropriate based upon need. \$500,000 is for scientific and natural areas and native prairie bank easements.

(The total 1996 bonding appropriation for RIM Wildlife and Natural Area Land Acquisition was \$3,500,000. The agency has allocated \$500,000 to North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) land acquisitions and \$2,500,000 to the RIM Critical Habitat Matching Program).

B. Matching Funds:

Expenditures of state funds for NAWMP acquisitions will be submitted for federal matching dollars for projects under the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) generally on a 2:1 match (\$2 state generate \$1 federal match). NAWCA grants are approved on a competitive basis for projects nationwide. Approved NAWCA projects in Minnesota include the Heron Lake, Swan Lake, Northern Tallgrass Prairie (Red River Valley Watershed), and Minnesota River Projects and additional phases of these projects. One new grant proposal, the Prairie Heritage Project, has been submitted to NAWCA for consideration. Minnesota is the third highest recipient of NAWCA dollars in the United States.

Expenditures by the various partners in a project area are pooled to provide the nonfederal match for NAWCA grant proposals. Eligible nonfederal match includes partner expenditures for fee title or easement land acquisition, wetland restoration or development, and in-kind matching for salary and labor to manage or implement the project. Grant partners have included DNR, Board of Water and Soil Resources, soil and water conservation districts, local watershed districts, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and a variety of private conservation groups such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Minnesota Waterfowl Association.

Legislative appropriations specifically for NAWMP land acquisition have included \$1.0 million (M.L. 1994, Chapter 643, Section 23, Subd. 23) and \$500,000 (ML 1996, Chap. 463, Sec. 7, Subd. 22) in bonding dollars and \$650,000 (M.L. 1995, Chapter 220, Section 19, Subd. 10(a)) in Environmental Trust Fund (ETF) and Future Resources Funds (FRF), for a total of \$2.15 million. Since 1993, \$3.16 million in NAWCA grant funds have been approved or received by DNR and have been expended or budgeted for Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) land acquisition in the Swan Lake, Heron Lake, and Minnesota River Projects. The total NAWCA grant funds received by DNR since 1993 for acquisition, development, and other project-related costs is \$3.86 million. The difference is for nonacquisition activities such as wetland restoration and enhancement, native prairie grass seeding, waterfowl nesting structures, and personnel and administrative costs associated with these activities.

NAWCA regulations require that all federal funds received by the grantees must be expended to fulfill the objectives of the NAWCA project. Federal funds are received and expended by DNR on the respective, approved NAWCA projects under the authority of M.S. 84.085, Subd. 1(b) that provides:

The Commissioner of natural resources, on behalf of the state, may accept and use grants of money or property from the United States or other grantors for conservation purposes not inconsistent with the laws of this state. Any money or property so received is hereby appropriated and dedicated for the purposes for which it is granted, and shall be expended or used solely for such purposes in accordance with the federal laws and regulations pertaining thereto, subject to applicable state laws and rules as to manner of expenditure or use providing that the commissioner may make subgrants of any money received to other agencies, units of local government, and private nonprofit corporations. Appropriate funds and accounts shall be maintained by the commissioner of finance to secure compliance with this section.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Acquisition of wildlife lands is focused on protecting critical sites for wildlife and native plants, and providing public hunting and other wildlife-related activities, with primary emphasis on completing existing State Wildlife Management Areas. Many critical habitats in the state are irreplaceable and need protection. Many more sites are available needing protection than there are funds available to acquire them.

Minnesota has been a leader in the effort through the NAWMP to stabilize and restore continental waterfowl populations. State funds provided for NAWMP acquisitions are crucial to Minnesota's continued efforts in this unique partnership with federal and local governments, conservation groups, and private citizens to protect and restore wetland ecosystems for their values to wildlife and people.

The 1997 appropriation will acquire approximately 350 acres as outlined in IV below.

III. SIX MONTH WORK PROJECT RESULTS 6/1/96 - 5/30/97:

The following parcels were purchased during this period with the identified funds:

RIM Wildlife Acquisition 1994: Three tracts totaling 352 acres at a cost of \$311,000.

RIM Accel. Wildlife Land Acquisition 1995: Seven tracts totaling 355 acres at a cost of \$261,000

RIM Accel. Wildlife Land Acquisition 1996: One tract totaling 23 acres at a cost of \$48,000.

For cumulative accomplishments see page 4.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

A. 1997 Appropriation: Proposed Expenditures

\$270,000

Purchase 180-225 acres of wetlands, restorable drained wetlands and adjacent uplands at Swan Lake, Heron Lake, and as part of the Minnesota River Project and other NAWMP projects.

\$180,000

Purchase 100-200 acres of WMA lands in high population corridor.

\$ 50,000

Professional Services

\$500,000

B. Current Appropriations: The balance of funding from previous appropriations for WMA land acquisition will be spent to purchase priority WMA lands identified in Appendix A. Funds appropriated for NAWMP acquisitions will be expended to purchase projects qualifying for federal match under NAWCA.

V. CONTEXT

Wildlife Management Area Acquisition

A. Significance: The Reinvest in Minnesota program provides critical funding to purchase WMA lands to benefit wildlife populations, improve hunting and trapping opportunities and other wildlife related activities. The legislative funding has greatly increased the opportunity for Minnesota's citizens to enjoy wildlife and our natural heritage beyond hunting license or nongame check off revenues. These funds provide a major benefit to the overall quality of life, strength of the environment, community and the economy.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan project acquisition

A. Significance: The NAWMP is a cooperative effort by federal, state, and local governments and private organizations in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to stabilize and restore continental waterfowl populations by preserving and restoring adequate wetland habitats.

Funding will ensure continued progress on four existing significant NAWMP watershed projects (Heron Lake, Swan Lake, Northern Tallgrass Prairie, and the Minnesota River), one proposed project (Prairie Heritage) and other potential projects. Wetlands and associated uplands will be acquired and restored in key locations within these projects to help fulfill the goals of the NAWMP.

Wildlife Management Area Corridor Acquisition

A. Significance: Extensive rural development in the 18-county "growth corridor" from St. Cloud to the Twin Cities to Rochester threatens sensitive natural resources in this area. In many cases, this may be the last opportunity to protect these critical habitats. Increasing populations also create a higher demand for public hunting, trapping, and other wildlife-related activities in close proximity. Only 7 percent of the acquired WMA lands in Minnesota are located in this 18-county area. Funds will be used to accelerate the purchase of WMA lands within this area to protect valuable wetlands and critical upland wildlife habitat and enhance recreational use, especially public hunting and trapping. Land costs will continue to increase over time in this corridor area and it is imperative that key acquisitions be completed before land prices become too prohibitive.

CUMULATIVE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH MAY 30, 1997

Appropriation	Budget	WMA Acquisition ^a		Expended	Balance
		Acq. Tracts	Acq. Acres		
1993 ETF NAWMP	\$300,000.00	4	210	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
1994 Bonding-WMA	\$700,000.00	10	581	\$700,000.00	\$0.00
1994 Bonding NAWMP	\$1,000,000.00	6	675	\$947,000.00	\$53,000.00
1995 ETF NAWMP	\$510,000.00	6	530	\$510,000.00	\$0.00
1995 FRF NAWMP	\$140,000.00	3	105	\$140,000.00	\$0.00
1996 Bonding NAWMP	\$500,000.00	1	23	\$48,000.00	\$452,000.00
TOTALS	\$3,150,000.00	32	2,124	\$2,737,000.00	\$505,000.00

^a See Appendix A for a detailed listing of completed and proposed acquisition projects.

B. Time: The ETF and FRF funds APPROPRIATED IN 1995 AND 1996 will be expended by December 31, 1997. It is anticipated that the 1994 bonding funds will be expended by December 31, 1996 and the 1996 bonding funds by December 31, 1997. ETF funds appropriated in 1997 will be available in July of 1997 and will be expended by July 1999.

C. Budget Context: For budget history see table on page 1.

Other WMA Acquisition Funding Sources

Source	July 1995-June 1997	July 1997-June 1999	July 1999-June 2001
Surcharge ¹	\$1,100,000.00	\$1,100,000.00	\$1,100,000.00
RIM Match ²	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Cash Donations ³	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00
Nonstate (NAWCA) ⁴	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,800,000.00	\$2,800,000.00	\$2,800,000.00

¹ Wildlife Acquisition Account (\$4 Surcharge on the small game license).

² Based on previous 5-year average for WMA purchases with RIM Critical Habitat Matching funds (bonding, ETF, and FRF funds).

³ Based on previous 5-year average for private cash donations for WMA purchases under the RIM Critical Habitat Matching Program.

⁴ Based on previous 4-year average for WMA purchases with NAWCA funds.

VI. COOPERATION

Besides the above program managers, Area wildlife, SNA and Nongame personnel coordinate with other divisions, counties, federal agencies and private nonprofit groups involved in the acquisition projects noted.

VII. LOCATION: Ecological classification location: Statewide

VIII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual six-month work program update reports will be submitted by January 1st and July 1st of each year.

APPENDIX A

ETF NAWMP Acquisition 1993 - \$300,000					
<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>WMA Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Status</u>
Swan Lake	Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA	56.40	\$89,500.00	C
	Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA	3.51	\$3,024.00	C
Heron Lake	Nobles	West Graham WMA	120.00	\$161,000.00	C
	Nobles	West Graham WMA	29.60	\$40,000.00	C
Professional Services				<u>\$6,476.00</u>	
Total			209.51	\$300,000.00	

Status Codes: C=Completed, A=Active, P=Proposed

APPENDIX A (Continued)

RIM Wildlife Acquisition 1994 - \$1.7 million bonding

\$700,000 WMA Acquisition

<u>County</u>	<u>WMA Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Status</u>
Anoka	Carlos Avery WMA	40.00	\$80,850.00	C
Carver	Carver Highlands WMA	24.50	\$100,000.00	C
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	34.43	\$60,000.00	C
Olmsted	Haverhill WMA	134.16	\$177,000.00	C
Otter Tail	Elmo WMA	27.59	\$20,000.00	C
Otter Tail	Inman WMA	40.00	\$9,900.00	C
St. Louis	Fermoy WMA	23.30	\$7,000.00	C
Scott	Bradshaw Lake WMA	16.99	\$56,500.00	C
Todd	Iona WMA	100.00	\$40,000.00	C
Wabasha	Pool 4 WMA	140.00	\$91,400.00	C
	<u>Professional Services</u>		<u>\$57,350.00</u>	
Total		580.97	\$700,000.00	

\$1,000,000 NAWMP Acquisition

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>WMA Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Status</u>
Swan Lake	Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA	107.40	\$93,176.00	C
	Nicollet	Little Lake WMA	<u>66.80</u>	<u>\$64,100.00</u>	C
	SUBTOTAL		174.20	\$157,276.00	
Heron Lake	Jackson	Heron Lake WMA	123.00	\$210,000.00	C
	Jackson	West Heron L. WMA	<u>54.51</u>	<u>\$110,000.00</u>	C
	SUBTOTAL		177.51	\$320,000.00	
Minnesota River	Carver	Carver Highlands WMA	60.91	\$250,000.00	C
	Redwood	Johnsonville WMA	5.91	\$4,700.00	A
	Swift	Lac qui Parle WMA	<u>261.95</u>	<u>\$136,440.00</u>	C
	SUBTOTAL		328.77	\$391,140.00	
Professional Services(estimated)				<u>\$131,584.00</u>	
Total			680.48	\$1,000,000.00	

Status Codes: C=Completed, A=Active, P=Proposed

APPENDIX A (Continued)

<u>RIM Accel Wildlife Land Acquisition 1995</u>					
\$510,000 Environmental Trust Fund /\$140,000 Future Resources Fund Acquisition					
<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>WMA Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Status</u>
Minnesota River					
	Big Stone	Lac qui Parle WMA	156.16	\$123,400.00	C
	Murray	Schoeberl WMA	25.10	\$27,600.00	C
	Murray	County Line WMA	59.96	\$60,000.00	A
	Yellow Medicine	Sioux Nation WMA	168.28	\$64,750.00	C
	Chippewa	Lac qui Parle WMA	<u>86.84</u>	<u>\$96,287.00</u>	C
	SUBTOTAL		496.34	\$372,037.00	
Heron Lake					
	Jackson	North Heron L. WMA	123.50	\$195,500.00	C
	Jackson	West Heron L. WMA	<u>14.87</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	C
	SUBTOTAL		138.37	225,500.00	
Professional Services (estimated)				<u>\$52,463.00</u>	
Total			634.71	\$650,000.00	

<u>RIM Wildlife & Natural Area Acquisitions 1996 Bonding</u>					
\$500,000 for NAWMP Acquisitions					
<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>WMA Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Status</u>
Minnesota River					
	Murray	County Line WMA	23.08	\$23,100.00	C
	Balance to spend			<u>\$140,000.00</u>	P
	SUBTOTAL		23.08	\$163,100.00	
Heron Lake					
	Jackson	Heron Lake WMA	120.00	\$186,900.00	P
Swan Lake					
	Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA	60.00	\$100,000.00	P
Professional Services (estimated)				<u>\$50,000.00</u>	
Total			203.08	\$500,000.00	

Status Codes: C=Completed, A=Active, P=Proposed

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