

FINAL REPORT

SUSTAINABLE WOODLANDS AND PRAIRIES ON PRIVATE LANDS – CONTINUATION

Doug Anderson

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

500 Lafayette Road

St Paul, MN 55155-4044

Phone: (651) 297-4467

Fax (651) 296-5954

E-Mail: doug.Anderson@dnr.state.mn.us

Web Site Address: www.foreststeward.org

\$450,000 TF/Match

ML 1999, Ch231, Sec. 16. Subd. 13 (a)

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project was highly successful in providing 170 forest management plans on over 17,000 acres of forests and 9 prairie management plans on 1251 acres of prairies. Management activities were cost shared on an additional 9,000 acres of forest. \$435,894 of matching funds were raised from private landowners, consultants and Global ReLeaf. The management plans set the stage for additional development activity to occur in the near future. This is large enough to a significant benefit to the Minnesota landscape. When a landowner gets involved with the program, the stewardship of that land greatly increases.

The only problem encountered with the program was the freeze on contracts which was imposed from February through May of 2002. This required all the prairie work to be done in June. The balance of \$2,312 would have easily been spent if not for this restriction.

Projects Results Use and Dissemination

The results of this project, be it the writing of a management plan or the cost share of a management activity, keep growing from the initial effort. Word of the benefits of sound natural resource management is spread between neighbors and families. This program has been written about in "Better Forests", the publication of the Minnesota Forestry Association.

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Date of Report: September 04, 2003
Date of Next Status Report: Close Out Report
Date of Work-program Approval: June - July, 1999 ; Initiated in July 1999, FY00
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2002 - FY02

LCMR 1999 Final Work Program Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: CO1 Sustainable Woodlands and Prairies on Private Lands - Continuation

Program Manager and Affiliation:

Culver Adams, President, Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)
 Ron Nargang, State Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Mailing Address: PO Box 496, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Telephone Number: 218-326-3000 (MFA) 612-331-0750 (TNC)

Fax Number: 218-326-3224 (MFA) 612-331-0770 (TNC)

Administrator: Doug Anderson, (651) 297-4467; FAX 651-296-5954
 DNR-Forestry, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4044
 doug.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us

Web Page Address: www.foreststeward.org (for forest landowners)

Total Biennial Project Budget:

Current::	In DNR-Forestry account number 01 030 3728 301 (Forest Stewardship)
	Allotted Encumbered Expended Balance
Year 1: \$	200,000.00 0 68,063.27 131,936.73*
Year 2: \$	331,936.73** 0 201,502.36 130,434.37*
Year 3: \$	130,434.37** 650.00 130,434.37 0

Current::	In DNR-Forestry account number 01 030 3730 301 (Prairie Stewardship)
	Allotted Encumbered Expended Balance
Year 1 \$	25,000.00 0 3,500.00 21,500.00*
Year 2: \$	46,500.00** 0 16,110.00 30,390.00*
Year 3: \$	30,390.00** 650.00 27,428.00 2,312.00
All LCMR:\$	450,000.00 *** 650.00 447,038.00 2,312.00

* To be rolled forward.

** Includes funds rolled forward from previous years.

*** Sum of ALL Encumbered+ Expended+ Balance

A. Legal Citation: ML 1999, Chap.231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13.

CO1 Sustainable Woodlands and Prairies on Private Lands - Continuation 450,000

Appropriation Language:

(a) Sustainable Woodlands and Prairies on Private Lands - Continuation

\$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources in cooperation with the Minnesota Forestry Association and The Nature Conservancy, to develop stewardship plans for private landowners and implement natural resource projects by providing matching money to private landowners. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2002, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

B. Status of Match Requirement:

No match is required. However, matching funds are used and documented below.

	Required:	Anticipated:	Raised:
Result A. Private consultant and other plan writers matching (cash)			
	\$ 0	\$ 2,000	\$ 48,500
Result B. Conservation groups and other private donations (cash)			
	\$ 0	\$ 20,000	\$ 125,394 *
Result B. Landowner share of 50-50 cost share: (some cash, some in-kind)			
	\$ 0	\$ 350,000	\$ 262,000**
Total of Matched Funds	\$ 0	\$ 372,000	\$ 435,894

* Includes \$95,000 from Global ReLeaf.

** Includes both committed and expended matches from landowners.

Result A matches will occur as the contracts are let to private sector and non-profit organizations to write the Forest Stewardship plans for the landowners. None of these matches can be quantified before the project begins since project proposals to apply against the LCMR funds will be bid out and the winning bid cannot be predicted.

Result B matches are with landowners implementing projects. Due to the inherent nature of the matches with landowners, many of the matches will occur over the entire time period of the project. All matches will be committed before any LCMR funds are expended. Result B matches will also result from donations from private sector organizations. (See attachment 1 when such matches are raised)

II and III FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

This project was highly successful in providing 170 forest management plans on over 17,000 acres of forests and 9 prairie management plans on 1251 acres of prairies. Management activities were cost shared on an additional 9,000 acres of forest. \$435,894 of matching funds were raised from private landowners, consultants and Global ReLeaf. The management plans set the stage for additional development activity to occur in the near future. This is large enough to a significant benefit to the Minnesota landscape. When a landowner gets involved with the program, the stewardship of that land greatly increases.

The only problem encountered with the program was the freeze on contracts which was imposed from February through May of 2002. This required all the prairie work to be done in June. The balance of \$2,312 would have easily been spent if not for this restriction.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result A-1: Stewardship Plans on Forest Lands

Prepare Woodland Stewardship plans for approximately 350 landowners covering approximately 35,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and brushlands. Actual amount will be dependant on the bids of the plan providers. Plan providers may also bid to provide project plans associated with plan implementation. Project plans provide the detailed information while Forest Stewardship plans provide general, conceptual information and options for landowners.

The Minnesota Forest Stewardship Committee and the DNR will oversee professional standards and training. The Minnesota Forestry Association has requested assistance from the Forest Stewardship Committee for soliciting and selecting successful bidders. (MFA is a member of that committee.)

	Allotted	Encumbered	Expended	Balance
Year 1: \$	20,000.00	0	11,269.11	
Year 2: \$	100,000.00	0	58,192.30	
Year 3: \$		0	16,443.50	
Total	120,000		85,904.91	34,095.09

Match: None legally required, but matches of about \$2,000 are expected and will be documented.

Result Status Final Report

170 Forest Stewardship plans were written on 17,000 acres of land. The balance of this account was shifted to the cost share practices.

Result A-2: Stewardship Plans on Prairie Lands

Because of the success of stewardship planning in wooded portions of the state, the program will be expanded to the prairie ecosystem as a pilot project. Prepare plans on 50,000 acres of restorable or existing prairies and savannas for 1,000 private landowners. Prairie plan preparer standards and plan criteria will be developed by a coalition led by TNC and MFA in coordination with the Forest Stewardship committee and other qualified staff.

	Allotted	Encumbered	Expended	Balance
Year 1 \$	25,000.00	0	3,500.00	21,500.00
Year 2: \$	25,000.00	0	16,110.00	30,390.00
Year 3: \$		0	27,428.00	2,312.00
Total \$	50,000.00	0	47,038.00	2,312.00

Match: None legally required, and none are expected at this time.

Result Status Final Report

Prairie Stewardship plans, prescribed fire plans, restoration plans, grazing plans and other planning services were provided to 9 landowners in Isanti(1), Washington (3), Sherburne (1), Pope (2), Stevens(1), and Swift (1) Counties for a total of 1251 acres.

Result B:

Cost-share projects for landowners with Forest Stewardship plans.

CATEGORY	PROJECTED INCREASE
Wildlife & Fish habitat:	1,915 acres
Reforestation, general:	1,060 acres
Soil/Water Protection:	620 acres
Forest Improvement:	970 acres

(Actual category figures could vary based on priorities of partner matching funds shown below.)

Minnesota Forestry Association has requested the Forest Stewardship Committee and the DNR-Division of Forestry establish cost share rates and standards. Historical federal and state program specifications and the desire to avoid competition between programs will be considerations in establishing the rates and priorities. The Forest Stewardship Committee will also specify the kinds of practices which will be priorities for matching funds.

Matching funds will be sought from private sector for-profit and non-profit organizations. These organizations may specify the county (or counties) and practice (or practices) where their funds and the matched funds will be targeted.

Selection and funding distribution to local landowners will be done by the DNR-Division of Forestry at no cost to the LCMR funding.

	Allotted	Encumbered	Expended	Balance
Year 1: \$	180,000.00	0	56,794.16	
Year 2: \$	100,000.00	0	143,310.06	
Year 3: \$			113,990.87	
Total	280,000.00		314,095.09	(34,095.09)

Match: None legally required, but matches of about \$370,000 are expected and will be documented.

Accomplishments on private lands were matched with a 50% cost share by the landowners. These accomplishments were as follows: tree seeding – 152 acres; tree planting – 2,090,281 trees planted on 3490 acres; timber stand improvement on 1683 acres; bud capping on seedlings on 175 acres; 735 tree shelters; 8662.5 feet of fencing; grass and forb seeding on 127 acres; nest boxes – 352; wildlife openings – 10 acres; prescribed burning on 79 acres; planting site preparation on 2109 acres; tree mats – 10,170; 6 acres of wetland restoration; 4 water facilities created; 6640 feet of trails created.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Each participating landowner will receive a personal Forest Stewardship plan or Prairie Stewardship plan for their property based on their goals and the capacity of the land. The partner organizations will play a big role in advertising and disseminating the information. Each landowner will also have the chance to rate the plan and service they receive in an effort to constantly upgrade such service. To date, landowners have been very happy.

VI. CONTEXT:

A. Significance:

Result A: Non-industrial private landowners own 40% of the forest land in Minnesota. A

goal of many organizations including DNR-Forestry, the Forest Stewardship Committee, and the Minnesota Forestry Association is to assure that the landowners of 50% of the land (in parcels over 20 acres) are receiving professional assistance as demonstrated by a Forest Stewardship plan. This 50% goal covers 2,500,000 acres and is aggressively set to be achieved by 2005. Over 800,000 acres of Forest Stewardship plans have been prepared since 1991. As a continuation, this funding will help maintain the 100-120 thousand acre per year level that is underway.

The prairie portion of the project is an expansion of the concept that has been so successful in the wooded landscape. It is hoped by all partners that the funding will initiate a pool of private sector professionals who can assist the ongoing efforts to advise landowners in the prairie landscape areas.

Result B: Since October, 1998, cost-share funding for forestry has taken a sudden drop when the federal Stewardship Incentive Program (\$200,000/yr) and the state cost-share (\$275,000/yr) were eliminated. There is also a high demand from the increasing number of program participants. The cost-share provided by this project will be a vital source of incentives to achieve desirable activities recommended in the plans.

B. Time: Project will be completed within 3 years of initiation.

C. Budget Context:

TABLE 1 - Various Funding Sources

	July 97-June 99 Prior Expenditures	July 99-June 02 Project Period	July 01-June 03 Future Expenditures
LCMR	\$ 875,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 545,000
Other State	\$ 300,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Non State Match	\$ 655,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 544,000
In-kind			
Total	<u>\$1,830,000</u>	<u>\$ 865,000</u>	<u>\$1,089,000</u>

TABLE 2 - How LCMR funds are allocated within the project

	July 99-June 02 Project Period
Personnel - (Private sector contracts to prepare Forest Stewardship plans with no administrative costs for state personnel charged to LCMR)	\$ 120,000
Equipment	

Acquisition	
Development - (On-the-land activities-	\$ 330,000
no administrative costs charged to LCMR)	
Total	\$ 450,000

VII. COOPERATION:

Gerald Rose -DNR-Division of Forestry field staff will provide day-to-day program assistance. About 30 full-time-equivalents (FTEs) work on private land assistance. No cost to LCMR. These 30 FTEs not included in budget context above.

Thomas Kroll -DNR-Forestry; Forest Stewardship Committee Chair; Committee will screen funding applicants. Kroll will work 15% on this program. No cost to LCMR.

Larry Himanga - DNR-Forestry Incentives Programs specialist; 35% of his time of this program. No cost to LCMR.

MN Association of Consulting Foresters, other consulting foresters, and private sector biologists and ecologists will bid to prepare plans. An estimated 6+ FTEs will be involved. \$240,000 of LCMR funds.

Jim Lemmerman - Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Minnesota Association of (91) Soil and Water Conservation Districts agree to be involved

Dave Shad -DNR-Section of Wildlife staff will be involved. No cost to LCMR.

Peter Buessler of DNR-Wildlife will spend about 15% of his time on the project. No cost to LCMR.

Lee Pfannmuller of DNR-Ecological Services will be involved. No cost to LCMR.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) will be involved. No cost to LCMR.

VII. LOCATION:

Statewide. Note: Landowners receive the subsection map included in their Woodland and Prairie Stewardship plans along with a description of the significance of the owner's property in that subsection

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Matching fund contributors for cost-share match (Result B)

Attachment 2: Proposed and completed practices summary (Result B)

A full electronic copy of the database has been provided to LCMR staff.

Note, this database of individual landowners and specific accomplishments is loaded after the statewide accounting system is loaded. Therefore numbers may lag slightly from those shown in the LCMR Program Update.

Attachment 1

Matching Fund Contributors

At the request of the Minnesota Forestry Association, your state legislature, through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), provided \$400,000 for Forest Stewardship cost-sharing in 1999-2002. The following organizations provided additional cash donations to increase the total amount of cost-sharing funds available to individual landowners. The donors could specify the county they wanted the funds to spent in. If they donated more than \$1000 per county, they also had the option to target specific practices such as reforestation.

The LCMR appropriation and these donations are much appreciated and provide an incentive for implementing many worthwhile practices. Please feel free to express your appreciation to your legislators and the organizations which provided support. Feel free to contact us or your forester if you have any suggestions for improving the program.

County	Donor	Targeted Practices
Statewide	Global ReLeaf - American Forestry Assn. \$100,000 for Reforestation MN Forestry Association	Any
Becker	Cormorant Lakes Sportsmen Club Isaac-Walton League - Prairie - Woods Chapter MN Deer Hunters - Park Rapids Chapter	Any Any Any
Beltrami	Northern Forestry Inc.	Any
Benton	Central MN Small Woodlot Owners Assn.	Any
Cass	Central MN Small Woodlot Owners Assn.	Any
Chisago	Isanti Tree Planters Isanti County Bankers	Any Any
Clearwater	Northern Forestry Inc. Eric Swanson	Any Any
Crow Wing	Masconomo Forestry	Any
Cook	Arrowhead Electric Cooperative	Any
Dodge	Tri-County Pheasants Forever	Any
Douglas	National Wild Turkey Federation Viking Sportsmen Inc.	Any Any
Fillmore	Pheasants Forever, Upper Iowa River Chapter Tri-County Pheasants Forever	Any Any
Goodhue	Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District	Any

	Frontenac Sportsmen's Club	Wildlife Habitat	
Houston	Root River SWCD	Any	
	Root River Woodland Council	Any	
Hubbard	Northern Forestry Inc.	Any	
	MN Deer Hunters - Park Rapids Chapter	Any	
Isanti	Isanti Tree Planters	Any	
	Isanti County Bankers	Any	
Itasca	Parent Tree Farm	Any	
Kandiyohi	Willmar Sports Club	Any	
Kittson	Hidden Meadow Tree Farm	Any	
Lake	Louisiana Pacific Corporation	Reforestation	
LeSueur	Waterville Tree Board	Any	
Morrison	Central MN Small Woodlot Owners Assn.	Any	
Mower	Pheasants & Habitat Unlimited (Stewartville Sportsman)	Any	Any
Olmsted	Zumbro Valley Woodland Council	Any	
	Tri-County Pheasants Forever	Any	Any
Ottertail	Fergus Falls Fish & Game Club	Any	Any
	Ottertail Rod & Gun Club	Any	
	Ottertail FFA	Any	
Pennington	Tony Dorn Inc.	Any	
Pope	National Wild Turkey Federation	Any	
Rice	Rice County Forestry Fund	Any	
	Rice County Forestry Committee	Any	
Roseau	Robert Foley	Any	
	Golden Valley Camp	Any	
Todd	Masconomo Forestry	Any	
	Central MN Small Woodlot Owners Assn.	Any	
St. Louis	Louisiana Pacific Corporation	Reforestation	
Wabasha	Pheasants Forever, Wabasha Chapter	Wildlife Habitat	
	Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District	Any	
	Frontenac Sportsmen's Club	Wildlife Habitat	
Wadena	Central MN Small Woodlot Owners Assn.	Any	
Waseca	National Wild Turkey Fed. - Wilton River	Any	

Winona

Larry Greden

Any

Donations totaled \$ 125,394 in 34 counties from July 1, 1999 to March 1, 2001. Many thanks to the donors!