

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Coordination, Mapping & Data Management (1a)

PROJECT MANAGER: Eran Sandquist, State Coordinator-MN

AFFILIATION: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS: 410 Lincoln Ave. S.

CITY/STATE/ZIP: South Haven, MN 55382

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E-MAIL: esandquist@pheasantsforever.org

WEBSITE: www.pheasantsforever.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j1a

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$51,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The coordination, mapping, and data management work plan provided for the timely, consistent, and accurate reporting of all Habitat Conservation Partnership accomplishments and expenditures during the project period. Duties the project coordinator included: coordinating partners, projects and cultivating partnerships; managing project data and contracting/coordinating mapping services; soliciting & compiling partner information & providing reports to LCCMR and partners; scheduling, coordinating, and chairing meetings & providing meeting minutes; coordinating public relations outreach to media; serving as primary contact for LCCMR; facilitating executive & full committee meetings & coordinating subcommittee meetings; and managing contract for administration and mapping components of the partnership.

With this being the end of the formal Habitat Conservation Partnership, contracted mapping and website services were completed in November of 2013. This resulted in fewer ENRTF funds being required under this result, expending \$16,503 of the budgeted \$25,000. Additionally, as the partnership was winding down, less personnel time was required to conduct coordination among partners and projects, thus fewer ENRTF funds than anticipated were expended to provide the essential partnership coordination function. This work plan expended \$1,286 of the budgeted \$26,000 to coordinate the partnership. In total, this work plan turns back \$33,211 to the ENRTF as the funds were not necessary for the completion of this work plan.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Please refer to individual partner final work plan reports for the accomplishments.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Status Update: 10/13/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** _____

Project Title: HCP VII - Coordination, Mapping & Data Management (1a)

Project Manager: Eran Sandquist
Affiliation: Pheasants Forever Inc
Address: 410 Lincoln Avenue South
City: South Haven **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55382
Telephone Number: (763) 242-1273
Email Address: esandquist@pheasantsforever.org
Web Address: http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	51,000
	Amount Spent \$:	17,789
	Balance \$:	33,211

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j1a

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established,

including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII – 1a – Coordination, Mapping, & Data Management

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

The coordination, mapping, and data management work plan provided for the timely, consistent, and accurate reporting of all Habitat Conservation Partnership accomplishments and expenditures during the project period. Duties the project coordinator included: coordinating partners, projects and cultivating partnerships; managing project data and contracting/coordinating mapping services; soliciting & compiling partner information & providing reports to LCCMR and partners; scheduling, coordinating, and chairing meetings & providing meeting minutes; coordinating public relations outreach to media; serving as primary contact for LCCMR; facilitating executive & full committee meetings & coordinating subcommittee meetings; and managing contract for administration and mapping components of the partnership.

With this being the end of the formal Habitat Conservation Partnership, contracted mapping and website services were completed in November of 2013. This resulted in fewer ENRTF funds being required under this result, expending \$16,503 of the budgeted \$25,000. Additionally, as the partnership was winding down, less personnel time was required to conduct coordination among partners and projects, thus fewer ENRTF funds than anticipated were expended to provide the essential partnership coordination function. This work plan expended \$1,286 of the budgeted \$26,000 to coordinate the partnership. In total, this work plan turns back \$33,211 to the ENRTF as the funds were not necessary for the completion of this work plan.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (November 30, 2011): Partners have slowly begun work on the Phase VII appropriation. The partnership is now using the standard LCCMR work program reports which has increased efficiencies related to reporting. PF fully expects that coordination costs will be minimal and probably significantly under budget due to the reporting change. The partnership sees this transition as an improvement. Very little coordination activities were needed except for helping with clarification issues with reporting. We still continue to strive to improve the mapping component of the HCP system.

Project Status as of (May 31, 2012): Once again, due to the change in reporting requirements very little coordination activities were required by the partners. The HCP online mapping and data management system requires occasional updates and fixes. With the reporting transition, we believe this is an opportune time to critically review the effectiveness and efficiency of the HCP online system. We will be working with Community GIS to discuss the future of the online system.

Project Status as of (November 30, 2012): After further review, the partnership will be transitioning away from the HCP online reporting system. The change makes sense in a lot of ways including two major reasons. Number one, as understood today the formation of the LCC website will provide the needed tools to adequately report HCP accomplishments. Paying for a duplicative system doesn't make sense. Secondly, the website is rather dated and needs improvements to bring the system to today's standards. An update would require significant investment which cannot be justified at this time.

We do acknowledge that there have been significant accomplishments throughout HCP's history. With those accomplishments comes a considerable amount of reporting and data. As the website is transitioned out, all data will be compiled and made available in a usable format.

Project Status as of (May 31, 2013): We continue to work with Community GIS to review the online reporting system. We believe by the end of 2013 the HCP website will no longer be in service.

Project Status as of (November 30, 2013): After further critical review, Pheasants Forever and the HCP have terminated Community GIS's services for data management, reporting, and web hosting. As the HCP partnership was formed in the early 2000's, public funding investments were made, and it became apparent that a streamlined and effective reporting system was needed to report the accomplishments of the partners in a consistent manner. The partners worked with Community GIS to develop that geodatabase and online reporting system which met the needs of the HCP partnership for many years and 6 rounds of ENRTF appropriations. However, to update the online reporting system to today's standards would require significant investment which cannot be justified. The HCP website is no longer in service and no longer hosted by Community GIS. Pheasants Forever is looking into hosting the website and at a minimum posting relevant HCP information and reports for dissemination on the national Pheasants Forever website. The historical data from the HCP partnership has been compiled and provided to Pheasants Forever.

Project Status as of (May 31, 2014): As the completion date for the appropriations near, partners are finishing their work and will be submitting final reports on accomplishments. We believe this will be the last year of the HCP as it is known formally. However, partners will continue to work together in the future to make a lasting impact on Minnesota's great natural resources.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Project Coordination

Description: Duties for the HCP project coordinator under this proposal include: coordination of partners, projects and cultivation of partnerships; managing project data and contracting/coordinating mapping services; soliciting, compiling partner information and providing periodic reports to LCCMR and partners using the online reporting system; scheduling, coordinating, assisting with and chairing meetings; providing meeting minutes; coordinating public relations outreach to media; serve as primary contact for LCCMR; facilitating executive committee and full committee meetings and coordinating subcommittee meetings, manage administration and contract mapping for the Habitat Conservation Partnership. Additional duties for the Phase 7 project would include working to improve the online project tracking/reporting system.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 26,000
Amount Spent: \$ 1,286
Balance: \$ 24,714

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Project Coordination	June 30, 2013	\$ 26,000

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2011): No activity has taken place under this work plan. We are currently working under the Phase V and VI coordination and mapping work plan to provide the necessary coordination activities for the partnership. Work will begin on or before July 1, 2012 for this portion of the work plan.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2012): No activity has taken place under this work plan. We are currently working under the Phase V and VI coordination and mapping work plan to provide the necessary coordination activities for the partnership. Work will begin on or before July 1, 2012 for this portion of the work plan.

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2012): As reflected in the above budget, very little coordination activities were required by the partners. Partners have become proficient in using the standard LCCMR reporting forms. We continue to work with Community GIS to review the online reporting system.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2013): We continue to work with Community GIS to transition away from HCP online reporting system. We have been discussing how best to efficiently close down the site and have all data and information in a format that can be usable / readable by other database software programs.

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2013): The HCP website is no longer in service and no longer hosted by Community GIS. Partners will be reporting accomplishments via the standard work plan forms provided as required by LCCMR. All HCP historical data has been compiled and provided to Pheasants Forever.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2014): As reflected in the above budget, very little coordination activities were required by the partners. Partners will be working on completing their final reports via the standard LCCMR forms and PF will compile the data for the Partnership.

Final Report Summary: With this being the Habitat Conservation Partnership's last funded proposal, we expended less funds than anticipated on partnership coordination, thus the reason we did not fully expend the appropriated funds under Activity 1.

ACTIVITY 2: Project Mapping and Data Management

Description: PF staff will sub-contract mapping/data management services for the partnership as described above. We plan to contract the mapping/data management piece with Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota. This company has been with the partnership since inception and has worked with the partnership to develop an online reporting system to produce accomplishment reports that include expenditures, accomplishments and mapping products that provide accurate and concise work plan reporting. For the Phase 7 projects, the partnership will be using the standard work program reports which will be supplemented with HCP's online project reports. Community GIS's role and responsibility has been reduced by the Partnership now using the standard work program reports, but will still be heavily relied on for the data analysis, mapping, and reporting.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:	ENRTF Budget: \$ 25,000
	Amount Spent: \$ 16,503
	Balance: \$ 8,498

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Manage and map HCP accomplishments utilizing HCP online reporting system.	June 30, 2013	\$ 25,000

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2011): Community GIS completed many tasks for the partnership. Community GIS worked with partners to update online database map, digitize data for mapping, and digitize partner shapefiles. Community GIS worked with partners to complete update and final reports for previous phases. They also completed some troubleshooting relating to newer excel file formats and PDF creation.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2012): Community GIS worked with partners to complete update and final reports for previous phases. They also completed some troubleshooting relating to incorrect calculations in online tables.

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2012): Community GIS completed many tasks for the partnership. Community GIS worked with partners to update online database map, digitize data for mapping, and digitize partner shapefiles. Community GIS worked with partners to complete update and final reports. Community GIS also worked on HCP GIS datasets from inception to current, and worked to consolidate all versions of datasets and create metadata files. The partnership will be transitioning away from the online reporting system with the new LCC reporting website being created. All data will be compiled and available in a form that will be usable in other database systems.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2013): We continue to work with Community GIS to review the online reporting system. We believe by the end of 2013 the HCP website will no longer be in service.

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2013): After further critical review, Pheasants Forever and the HCP have terminated Community GIS's services for data management, reporting, and web hosting. The HCP website is no longer in service and no longer hosted by Community GIS. The historical data from the HCP partnership has been compiled and provided to Pheasants Forever.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2014): Community GIS services are no longer used and therefore no work has been completed under this activity.

Final Report Summary: Pheasants Forever and the HCP terminated services contracted for data management, reporting, and web hosting in November of 2013. The HCP website is no longer in service and no longer hosted by the contractor. The historical data from the HCP partnership has been compiled and provided to Pheasants Forever.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: All update and final reports will be available at www.mnhabitatcorridors.org . In addition, PF will work with LCCMR staff to promote accomplishments and projects completed through this partnership in the media. We will forward any media coverage to LCCMR staff for distribution.

Status as of (November 30, 2011): To date no accomplishments have made for dissemination.

Status as of (May 31, 2012): To date no accomplishments have made for dissemination.

Status as of (November 30, 2012): Please refer to accomplishment plan updates specific to each partner.

Status as of (May 31, 2013): Please refer to accomplishment plan updates specific to each partner.

Status as of (November 30, 2013): Please refer to accomplishment plan updates specific to each partner.

Status as of (May 31, 2014): Please refer to accomplishment plan updates specific to each partner.

Final Report Summary: Each partner has accomplishments to share with the state of Minnesota and its constituency. This will be done through the LCCMR work program format. The www.mnhabitatcorridors.org website is no longer operational as the formal partnership has come to completion.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
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Personnel:	\$ 25,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (.15 FTE Total (2 yrs) - 72% salary, 28% benefits)
Service Contracts	\$ 25,000	Contract with Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota to provide mapping, online reporting, and data management for the partnership over the proposed 2-year time frame of this proposal. The partnership will be returning to using the LCCMR work program format that will be supplemented with HCP's project and data reports.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 1,000	Mileage at IRS rate (approximately 2,000 miles)
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 51,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:

Project Coordinator: State Coordinator (\$25,000) .15 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$ 0	\$ 0	
State			
	\$ 0	\$ 0	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 0	\$ 0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Project partners include: Pheasants Forever, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Detroit Lake Wetland Management District, Minnesota Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, The Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. We plan to continue working/contracting with partner Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota who have been with the project since inception. Community GIS Services delivers mapping and data management for the partnership.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This unique Partnership exists as a result of the desire of LCCMR to encourage conservation partners to work together as a statewide collaboration to focus resources and bring additional funds to Minnesota's wildlife habitat resources. We are 18 formal partner agencies and organizations recognized for an ability to achieve the mission of restoring, enhancing and conserving habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. The coordination, reporting and long term data management for this partnership documents the long term impact of a sustained effort to connect fragmented habitats, build upon existing investments in habitat, and demonstrate how the efforts of many can change habitat for the better on a landscape scale.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$175,000 Subd. 5(a)	\$92,683 Subd. 4(b)	\$70,000 Subd. 3(c)	\$100,000 Subd. 4(e)	\$0

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. MAP(S): N/A

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than November 30th 2011, May 31st 2012, and November 30th, 2012. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

FINAL Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: HCP VII – 1a – Coordination, Mapping, & Data Management								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j1a								
Project Manager: Eran Sandquist								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$51,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2014								
Date of Update: FINAL REPORT								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Project Coordination</i>			<i>Project Mapping & Data Management</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) (72% salary, 28% benefits)	25,000	1,286	23,714				25,000	23,714
Project Coordinator: State Coordinator (\$25,000) .15FTE								
Service contracts Contract with Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota to provide mapping, online reporting, and data management for the partnership over the proposed 2-year time frame of this proposal.				25,000	16,503	8,498	25,000	8,498
Travel expenses in Minnesota Mileage at IRS rate (approximately 2,000 miles)	1,000	0	1,000				1,000	1,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$26,000	\$1,286	24,714	\$25,000	\$16,503	8,498	51,000	33,212

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement & Long-term Monitoring (2e)

PROJECT MANAGER: Steve Mortensen

AFFILIATION: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

MAILING ADDRESS: 115 - 6th Street NW

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Cass Lake, MN 56633

PHONE: 218-335-7421

E-MAIL: smortensen@lldrm.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.lldrm.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2e

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 50,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The purpose of this project was to collect data on selected wild rice beds located on the Leech Lake Reservation and, using GIS, develop a method of quantifying the abundance from aerial photographs. Data collected from this work was then compared to fall waterfowl abundance data collected by the MN DNR to determine if a correlation existed. We were able to develop the methodology for quantifying rice abundance from high resolution photographs into some broad categories, but were unable to statistically correlate this with fall duck abundance. Either the rice quantification methods or waterfowl counts are not refined enough to make a statistically valid determination or, more likely, waterfowl will still make use of rice even if it is not abundant, provided it contains sufficient cover. Even though we were unable to make a correlation between rice abundance and fall waterfowl numbers the methodology developed for quantifying rice from aerial photographs will be valuable to us and other managers in the future.

This project also had two smaller components. The first was to manage, maintain, and enhance some of the waterfowl impoundments and other waters that are located on the Leech Lake Reservation. Over the period of this grant we focused on five impoundments and other waterways to enhance these areas for waterfowl and other species that utilize these habitats. On impoundments water levels were managed and dike and control structures were repaired and maintained. Beaver plugging is an ongoing problem on many of these waterways so dam material was removed as needed, Clemson Levelers were installed, and in some cases beaver removal was utilized to reduce the problem.

A second aspect of this project was to enhance waterfowl food supply by planting wild rice. Wild rice has been degraded in some locations due to inappropriate water levels, damage from wind storms, and human activities. Two hundred acres of Natures Lake was reseeded with rice under this grant in an effort to reestablish rice in areas where it had historically occurred.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The methodology and techniques used to quantify wild rice beds from aerial photographs will be available to other resource managers if they would like to use them to evaluate their rice beds.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: July 15, 2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** _____

Project Title: HCP VII - Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement & Long-term Monitoring (2e)

Project Manager: SteveMortenson
Affiliation: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Address: 115 - 6th Street NW
City: Cass Lake**State:** MN**Zipcode:** 56633

Telephone Number: (218) 335-7421
Email Address: smortensen@lldrm.org
Web Address: http://www.lldrm.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca

Ecological Section Impacted: Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	50,000
	Amount Spent \$:	49,984
	Balance \$:	16

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2e

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Final Report

I. PROJECT TITLE:HCP7-2E Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring

II. FINALPROJECT STATEMENT:

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The purpose of this project was to collect data on selected wild rice beds located on the Leech Lake Reservation and, using GIS, develop a method of quantifying the abundance from aerial photographs. Data collected from this work was then compared to fall waterfowl abundance data collected by the MN DNR to determine if a correlation existed. We were able to develop the methodology for quantifying rice abundance from high resolution photographs into some broad categories, but were unable to statistically correlate this with fall duck abundance. Either the rice quantification methods or waterfowl counts are not refined enough to make a statistically valid determination or, more likely, waterfowl will still make use of rice even if it is not abundant, provided it contains sufficient cover. Even though we were unable to make a correlation between rice abundance and fall waterfowl numbers the methodology developed for quantifying rice from aerial photographs will be valuable to us and other managers in the future.

This project also had two smaller components. The first was to manage, maintain, and enhance some of the waterfowl impoundments and other waters that are located on the Leech Lake Reservation. Over the period of this grant we focused on five impoundments and other waterways to enhance these areas for waterfowl and other species that utilize these habitats. On impoundments water levels were managed and dike and control structures were repaired and maintained. Beaver plugging is an ongoing problem on many of these waterways so dam material was removed as needed, Clemson Levelers were installed, and in some cases beaver removal was utilized to reduce the problem.

A second aspect of this project was to enhance waterfowl food supply by planting wild rice. Wild rice has been degraded in some locations due to inappropriate water levels, damage from wind storms, and human activities. Two hundred acres of Natures Lake was reseeded with rice under this grant in an effort to reestablish rice in areas where it had historically occurred.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The methodology and techniques used to quantify wild rice beds from aerial photographs will be available to other resource managers if they would like to use them to evaluate their rice beds.

III. PROJECTSTATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (May 1, 2012):Project not activated

Project Status as of (Nov. 1, 2012):

During this period we activated this project after finishing up our Phase VI work. Waterfowl habitat enhancement and management work was undertaken on some impoundments, but due to the low amount of precipitation less work than usual was needed this summer. We also completed the wild rice seeding into Nature's Lake to try to restore the rice acreage in the lake that has declined in the past decade or so. Work continued on the analysis of wild rice abundance on selected lakes using high resolution aerial photography and GIS software. A new set of images were shot this past fall to add to the data set we already have.

Project Status as of (May. 1, 2013):

The only work conducted during this period was some planning efforts for work that will be conducted during the summer of 2013.

Amendment Request(May 28, 2013)

We are requesting an amendment to this work plan that will give us another field season to work on Activity 2 that was somewhat delayed last field season due to the State Government Shutdown and to

do a better job of determining what the issues surrounding declines in wild rice are before attempting to take steps to correct it. This will include another year of aerial photographs of rice beds and interpretation of this data in addition to assessing the relationship between rice and waterfowl usage of these waters. We also would like to do more ground truthing of aerial photography using on the water surveys of rice beds. These changes are outlined in Activity 3 and in the attachment A Budget.

Activity 1 will be completed as planned with the exception of changing the ending date to June 30, 2014, and moving \$549 out of the Equipment/Tools/Supplies and into Service Contracts to cover anticipated needs in this line item.

Activity 2 is completed and no changes are requested except to change the final date to June 30, 2014 to match the rest of the Work Plan.

Activity 3- We would like to move \$3965 from the personnel wage line of this activity to cover this year's aerial photography. We are also requesting that additional funds under this activity be shifted from the Ecologist Position to the GIS Position as more funding will be needed to cover this portion of the project. Total dollar amount for Activity III and the overall project remain the same.

Amendment Approved (June 13, 2013)

Project Status as of (Nov. 1, 2013):

Work on Result 1 has been completed for this year. Low precipitation during part of this last summer reduced the amount of work that was needed to keep impoundments operating. Result 2 was completed last year so no further work was planned during this period. Project status of Result 3 includes the completion of georeferencing wild rice images from 2012 and 2013 using ArcGIS Software. This concludes all georectification of all aerial imagery data sets that the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management has. A subset was utilized this year, 2013, much like last year, in order to ground truth the GIS work being done on the imagery. Final assessment and calculation of wild rice acreage on the Leech Lake Reservation will continue this winter.

Amendment Request, Feb. 24, 2014

Our GIS Technician has moved with his partner to Wisconsin where she was offered an excellent job opportunity. He has set up his own GIS consulting business and we have a contracted with him to continue doing GIS work for us. For this reason our GIS Technician is no longer a regular employee, but would now be considered a contractor so we would like to transfer funds from our Personnel (Wages and Benefits) to Professional/Technical Contracts. It also appears that we will need a little extra funds to cover GIS work and there looks like there will be some extra in the Ecologist and Field Technician budgets so we would like to reduce these and put the additional funds into GIS. There is also \$35 remaining in the Result II that is completed so we are also requesting to move this money so this result can be zeroed out.

Amendment Approved (March 4, 2014)

Project Status as of (May. 1, 2014):

Work conducted during this period consisted mostly of planning for summer field work as well as a continuation of the GIS analysis for the wild rice portion of the project. We also applied for and received an amendment to accommodate changes in the status of our GIS Technician from a regular employee to a contractor. We also shifted some funds around to zero out some activity lines and get funds into other places where it was needed. We anticipate being completed with the project by the June 30 end date.

Final Report Summary: June 30, 2014

The purpose of this project was to collect data on selected wild rice beds located on the Leech Lake Reservation and using GIS develop a method of quantifying the abundance from aerial photographs. Data collected from this work was then compared to fall waterfowl abundance data collected by the MN DNR to determine if a correlation existed. We were able to develop the methodology for quantifying rice

abundance from high resolution photographs into some broad categories, but were unable to statistically correlate this with fall duck abundance. Either the rice quantification methods or waterfowl counts are not refined enough to make a statistically valid determination or, more likely waterfowl will still make use of rice even if it is not abundant, provided it contains sufficient cover. Even though we were unable to make a correlation between rice abundance and fall waterfowl numbers the methodology developed for quantifying rice from aerial photographs will be valuable to us and other managers in the future.

This project also had two smaller components. The first was to manage, maintain, and enhance some of the waterfowl impoundments and other waters that are located on the Leech Lake Reservation. Over the period of this grant we focused on five impoundments and other waterways to enhance these areas for waterfowl and other species that utilize these habitats. On impoundments water levels were managed, and dike and control structures were repaired and maintained. Beaver plugging is an ongoing problem on many of these waterways so dam material was removed as needed, Clemson Levelers were installed, and in some cases beaver removal was utilized to reduce the problem.

A second aspect of this project was to enhance waterfowl food supply by planting wild rice. Wild rice has been degraded in some locations due to inappropriate water levels, damage from wind storms, and human activities. Two hundred acres of Natures Lake was reseeded with rice under this grant in an effort to reestablish rice in areas where it had historically occurred.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement and Management

Description:Controlling and managing water levels on a subset of existing forested impoundments and waterways of the LLR to improve habitat for reproducing waterfowl. Tasks include beaver management, beaver dam removal, and periodic drawdown of water. Work for this grant period is planned for the impoundments listed below, but dependent on need, work may be shifted around to other impoundments (see map). Need is often determined by precipitation, beaver activity, and integrity of control structures and dikes. Current impoundments were work is planned include Cuba (44 acres); Brush Lake (13 acres); Bear Brook (18 acres); Lucille (26 acres); Upper Third River (28 acres), Cub (9), Ketchum(38).Continued habitat maintenance will be provided through a cooperative agreement between the LLBO and the USFS. Existing structures will be cleared, maintained, and parts replaced as needed.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$7092
Amount Spent: \$7708
Balance: \$(616)

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
<i>1. Water level control and management on existing forested impoundments and waterways. Includes control of beaver activity, and periodic drawdown's.</i>	June 30, 2014	\$7092

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2012): Project not activated

Activity Status as of (Nov. 1, 2012):

Waterfowl habitat and enhancement and management work was undertaken on impoundments, but due to the low amount of precipitation less work than usual was needed this past summer. Work that was completed included water control cleaning and repair plus mowing of the grass and brush on the dikes

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2013):

The only work conducted during this period was some planning efforts for work that will be conducted during the summer of 2013.

Activity Status as of (Nov. 1, 2013):

Waterfowl habitat and enhancement and management work was undertaken on impoundments, but due to the low amount of precipitation less work than usual was needed this past summer. Work that was completed included water control cleaning and repair plus mowing of the grass and brush on the dikes. Work this year focused on Cub, Ketchum, Lucille, Cuba, and Brush Lake Impoundments.

Activity Status as of (May. 1, 2014):

The only work conducted during this period was some planning efforts for work that will be conducted during the summer of 2014.

Final Report Summary: June 30, 2014

Over the course of this project we have worked on about a half dozen impoundment in addition to some other water bodies in an effort to protect and enhance habitat for waterfowl and other species that utilize these habitats. To a large degree this consisted of managing and maintaining impoundments that included things like control structure maintenance and clearing, beaver control, beaver baffler installation and maintenance, along with dike maintenance and repairs.

ACTIVITY 2: Wild Rice Habitat Enhancement and Management

Description: Reseeding 200 additional acres of habitat with local ecotypes of native wild rice (*Zizania* species) to improve wild rice production and to enhance cover and foraging opportunities for waterfowl on the LLR. Once established, and with continued management of water levels by LLBO and USFS, the wild rice should naturally reseed.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 2966
Amount Spent: \$ 2966
Balance: \$ 0

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Native wild rice reseeding on restored habitat (200 additional acres).	June 30, 2014	<u>\$2966</u>

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2012): Project not activated

Activity Status as of (Nov. 1, 2012): During this period we purchased and seeded 1977lbs of wild rice into Natures Lake in three locations. This lake historically had good stands of wild rice but production has significantly declined in the past decade. It is hoped that this effort will result in the reestablishment of dense rice stands on the lake again.

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2013):

This portion of the project has been completed so no work was planned or conducted during this period.

Activity Status as of (Nov. 1, 2013):

This activity was completed in 2012 so no work was planned for this period.

Activity Status as of May. 1, 2014):

This portion of the project has been completed so no work was planned or conducted during this period.

Final Report Summary: June. 30, 2014

This portion of the project was completed in 2012 when we seeded wildrice into some portions of Nature’s Lake in an effort to reestablish it in areas where it had occurred in the past.

ACTIVITY 3: Long-term Monitoring and Analysis of Wild Rice Productivity

Description: Digitizing and interpreting 2012 and 2013 aerial imagery of wild rice on LLR (approx. 13,000 acres/yr); then analyzing against our 18-year-long dataset of wild rice and waterfowl abundance (being interpreted and analyzed with 2010 ENRTF funding). Tasks include implementing methodology for interpreting wild rice on aerial imagery (being refined with 2010 ENRTF funding) and conduct more on the water ground truthing of aerial interpretation. This will include sampling of rice abundance, density, and seed production as well as some basic morphological characteristics of the locations where rice grows. This will enable us to better interoperate what we are seeing in aerial photographs of the same rice beds. We will also explore opportunities to implementing adaptive management based on trend analyses (being conducted with 2010 ENRTF funding); and working with the MNDNR-led Wild Rice Working Groups to standardize region-wide monitoring and enhancement of wild rice/waterfowl habitat. We will also continue partnering with the USFWS, BIA, USFS, and other stakeholders to implement adaptive management of wild rice/waterfowl habitat based on long-term trends. Additional funding will likely need to be identified and secured for this work.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$39943
Amount Spent: \$ 39311
Balance: \$632

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Unique 20-yr-long dataset of natural wild rice acreage interpreted and analyzed (1993-2012; approx. 13,000 acres on the LLR). Adaptive management implemented based on wild rice and waterfowl abundance trends on and near LLR between 1993 and 2012.	June 30, 2014	\$ 39943

Amendment Request:

The aerial photography work will need to begin before we have completed our Phase VI Supplemental Program as wild rice photos need to be taken when rice stands are at the peak of density. This usually occurs in late August. For this reason, we are requesting the use of the \$3965 budgeted for this work in August of 2011 prior to the completion of the appropriation to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe M. L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2f which is already programmed for habitat restoration work in the fall of 2011. This fits within the existing work plans and budgets.

Amendment request approved by LCCMR staff August 25, 2011.

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2012): Inactive except for shooting of aerial photographs as indicated in amendment.

Activity Status as of (Nov. 1, 2012):

During this period we implemented this project and completed the aerial photography and ground truthing work needed to analysis this past summer's wild rice crop. The aerial images for this work were delivered by ProWestto the DRM office along with a sample of color infrared imagery with the goal to improve the ability of identify wild rice with the introduction of the color infrared band.

Upon receiving the aerial images, processing was done on two wild rice beds in order to use ground truthing to determine if the GIS analysis was actually working as it should. The photos were rectified and the two additional bands were created for these photos. Once the red/green band and principal component band were calculated, they were combined with the original three bands and the resulting five band image had a maximum likelihood classification analysis run on the image. These processes are all similar to what had been outlined by previous work, except that the red/green band was calculated and added to the mix. This will be done for previous years as well as the other wild rice beds that the Leech Lake DRM has photos for.

Once the classification was finished, a random point generator was used to generate points in the areas designated rice as well as the areas designated as none rice. A total of 25 points for each class were generated. A probability analysis was run for the five band image and four classes were developed from this analysis, 0-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, and 75-100%. Within these classes random points were generated so that in the field, stem counts could be performed. This entailed laying a floating one meter square on the rice bed at the assigned point and counting stalks.

Statistical analysis is currently being run on these results to see how well the GIS software is actually performing. Preliminary basic statistical analysis shows that for the rice/no rice classification, the software correctly identified no rice for 76% of the sample points, and correctly identified rice for 92% of the sample points. The four classes yielded average stem densities as follows; for the class of 75-100% the sampling resulted in an average of 34.8 stalks/meter², 50-75% showed a sampling result of 11.7 stalks/meter², 25-50% showed a sampling result of 12.6 stalks/meter², and 0-25% showed a sampling result of 0.9 stalks/meter².

Further statistical analysis will be performed in order to possibly identify outliers and thus obtain a better average for each class. The Leech Lake DRM will continue to work on assessing wild rice beds beyond what has already been performed as well as the inclusion of a fifth band into the analysis.

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2013):

The only work conducted during this period was some planning efforts for work that will be conducted during the summer of 2013.

Amendment Request:

We would like to extend this Activity until June 30 of 2014 due to delays in field work last year because of to the State Government Shutdown and to give us more time to conduct another year of aerial rice bed imagery as well as the interoperation of these images and additional ground truthing of the results.

Activity Status as of (Nov. 1, 2013):

Georectification was completed on all remaining imagery up to through 2012, with 2013's imagery completed the last week of October. The Leech Lake Division of Resource Management contract ProWest& Associates to fly 2013 wild rice photos. The images were taken in the first week of September, as a late spring pushed back the flying date. Images were received from ProWest by the end of September. Upon receiving the images, they were georeferenced using ArcGIS software and Bing aerial imagery as a reference source. Once the photos were georeferenced, three lakes were used a subset for ground truthing. The ground truthing was used for a two part purpose, one to determine if interpretation was correct and two, to determine the density of the wild rice in each bed.

The lakes used for ground truthing within the 2013 data set were Leech Lake (Boy Bay), Natures Lake, and Bowstring Lake. These lakes had their wild rice beds digitized at a 1:2000 scale using air photo interpretation. Once the wild rice beds were digitized, ArcGIS software was used to generate fifty random points within the rice beds. Leech Lake Division of Resource Management Technicians sampled all points using a GPS, and determined if the points correctly identified rice density for all three sample areas.

For two of the three sampled lakes, nine more random points were generate to get a density measurement from the field, the first year that this method will be utilized. Three points were generated within either a high, medium, or low density area based upon coverage of the lake interpreted from aerial imagery. A collection of the seeds was taken from each generated sample point and placed in a cooler to ensure not moisture would be lost, as the weights of these seeds would be calculated to determine a total poundage for a given wild rice bed. These samples were collected from Natures Lake and Bowstring Lake. Once the entire acreage is calculated for a wild rice bed, the poundage can be calculated using field sample data.

Once all acreages have been calculated for 2013, there exist several rice beds from past years that will have their acreages calculated. Once all calculations are completed, this data set will be compared against Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Waterfowl Data to identify possible correlations. The waterfowl data had been compiled last year for comparison will a smaller subset from the entire data set. A detailed outline of the procedures used can be found in the write up from last summer.

Amendment Request, Feb. 24, 2014

Our GIS Technician has moved with his partner to Wisconsin where she was offered an excellent job opportunity. He has set up his own GIS consulting business and we have a contracted with him to continue doing GIS work for us. For this reason our GIS Technician is no longer a regular employee, but would now be considered a contractor so we would like to transfer funds from our Personnel (Wages and Benefits) to Professional/Technical Contracts. It also appears that we will need a little extra funds to cover GIS work and there looks like there will be some extra in the Ecologist and Field Technician budgets so we would like to reduce these and put the additional funds into GIS. There is also \$35 remaining in the Result II that is completed so we are also requesting to move this money so this result can be zeroed out.

Amendment Approved (March 4, 2014)

Activity Status as of (May. 1, 2014):

During this period we applied for and received an amendment to change the method of paying for the GIS work on this portion of the project. Our GIS Tech. is now working as a contractor instead of a regular employee, but agreed to finish up this project for us. We also obtained the duck data from the MN DNR Waterfowl Unit and has started to assess this information.

Final Report Summary: June 30, 2014

Work was completed on the rice bed photos and an analysis made that compared rice abundance to waters for which the MN DNR also had fall waterfowl counts. The main purpose of this project was to develop methodology for quantifying rice abundance from aerial photographs. Details of this portion of the project can be found in a separate report. This study found that there was little correlation between rice abundance and duck abundance. Although it is reasonable to assume that with more rice you would have more ducks, it was not detectable using the methods outlined in this project. There are likely other factors that affect duck abundance in any particular area from year to year that confound the analysis undertaken in this project.

V. DISSEMINATION:

The Leech Lake Band is part of the Wild Rice Working Group in Minnesota. We will continue to coordinate with this state-wide wild rice monitoring, enhancement, and research effort to assure that wild rice continues to be a component of Minnesota lakes and streams. The methodology and techniques used to quantify wild rice beds from aerial photographs will be available to other resource managers if they would like to use them to evaluate their rice beds. Impoundment management focuses on providing habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species that utilize this type of habitat, but there is no organized effort to provide the locations of these activities.

Description:

Status as of (May 1, 2012)Project not activated

Status as of (Nov. 1, 2012):There has been very little dissemination of information related to these projects outside of coordinating with other partners we are working with.

Status as of (May 1, 2013):

The only work conducted during this period was some planning efforts for work that will be conducted during the summer of 2013.

Status as of (Nov. 1, 2013):There has been very little dissemination of information related to these projects outside of coordinating with other partners we are working with.

Status as of (May. 1, 2014):

The only work conducted during this period was some planning efforts for work that will be conducted during the summer of 2014.

Final Report Summary: (June 30, 2014)

Information from the work performed under this project is available to anyone who has an interest in receiving it. The Methodology used to analyze rice abundance from aerial photographs will be of most interest to other researchers or managers.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:All (for 3years)		
Plant Ecologist (8% FTE)	\$ 12,660	Rice monitoring portion of project.
GIS Specialist (9% FTE)	\$ 12,660	GIS work that relates to rice monitoring
2-Field Tech. Rice (3.8% FTE)	\$ 6,158	Field Techs. for rice monitoring, data collection
2-Field Tech. Imp. Etc. (2% FTE)	\$ 4,004	Field Techs. For imp. and waterway management
Professional/Technical		

Contracts:		
High Res. Rice Bed Photos.	\$7930	Contract for high resolution photos of rice beds.
Service Contracts	\$1,239	Heavy Equipment work on impoundments
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$4,349	Clemson levelers, water control parts, wild rice seed, etc
Other: Gas and Mileage	\$1,000	Fuel to cover project work and any mileage for meetings.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 50,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:0.31 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state BIA Circle of Flight	\$ 25,000	\$19,622	<i>Imp. Work, project administration</i>
US Forest Service	\$ 10,000	\$20,000	Other impoundment-waterfowl, rice work
In-Kind LL Res. DRM	\$ 12,998	\$12,000	Office space, indirect, support staff, etc.
State	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$47,998	\$51,622	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

B. We will be working with the Wild rice working group, MN , DNR, US Forest Service, and the BIA on these projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

With ENRTF support, this project will provide continuation of previous and current management activities aimed at enhancing natural wild rice productivity and waterfowl nesting and brood habitat on LLR. The LLDRM has a strong record of grant awards from tribal, federal, state, and non-profit entities. We also have a strong record of active participation in technical committees, regional and nation-wide strategic planning teams, and academic research. Our efforts to obtain funding to conserve the natural resources of the LLR are continuous and ongoing.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
LCCMR	28000	30000	30000	00	50000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

IX. MAP(S):

See attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than 10 days after reporting periods May 1 and Nov. 1 of each year. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

05042011

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management Wild Rice Assessment



Nature/S.
Lake Rice
Lake

Third
River
Flowage

Pigeon
Damn

Bowstring
River/Cow
Bay



Rabbit/Raven
Flowage

Muskrat/Grouse
Bay



Mudd
Lake





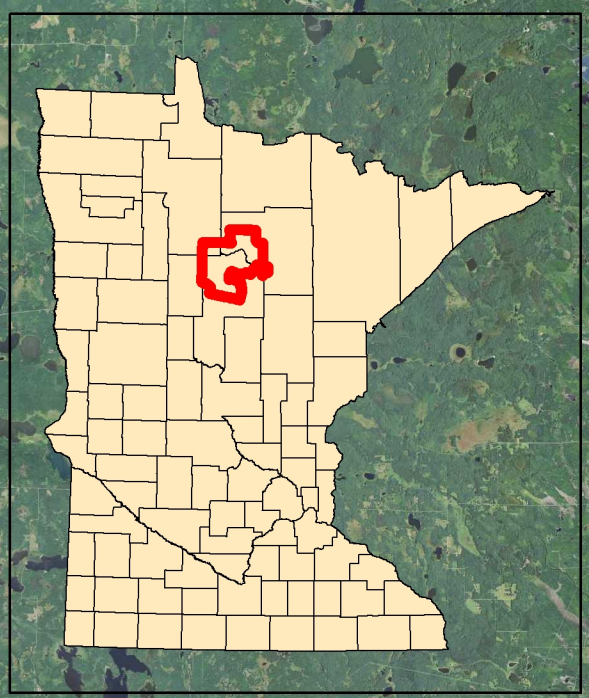
Boy Bay



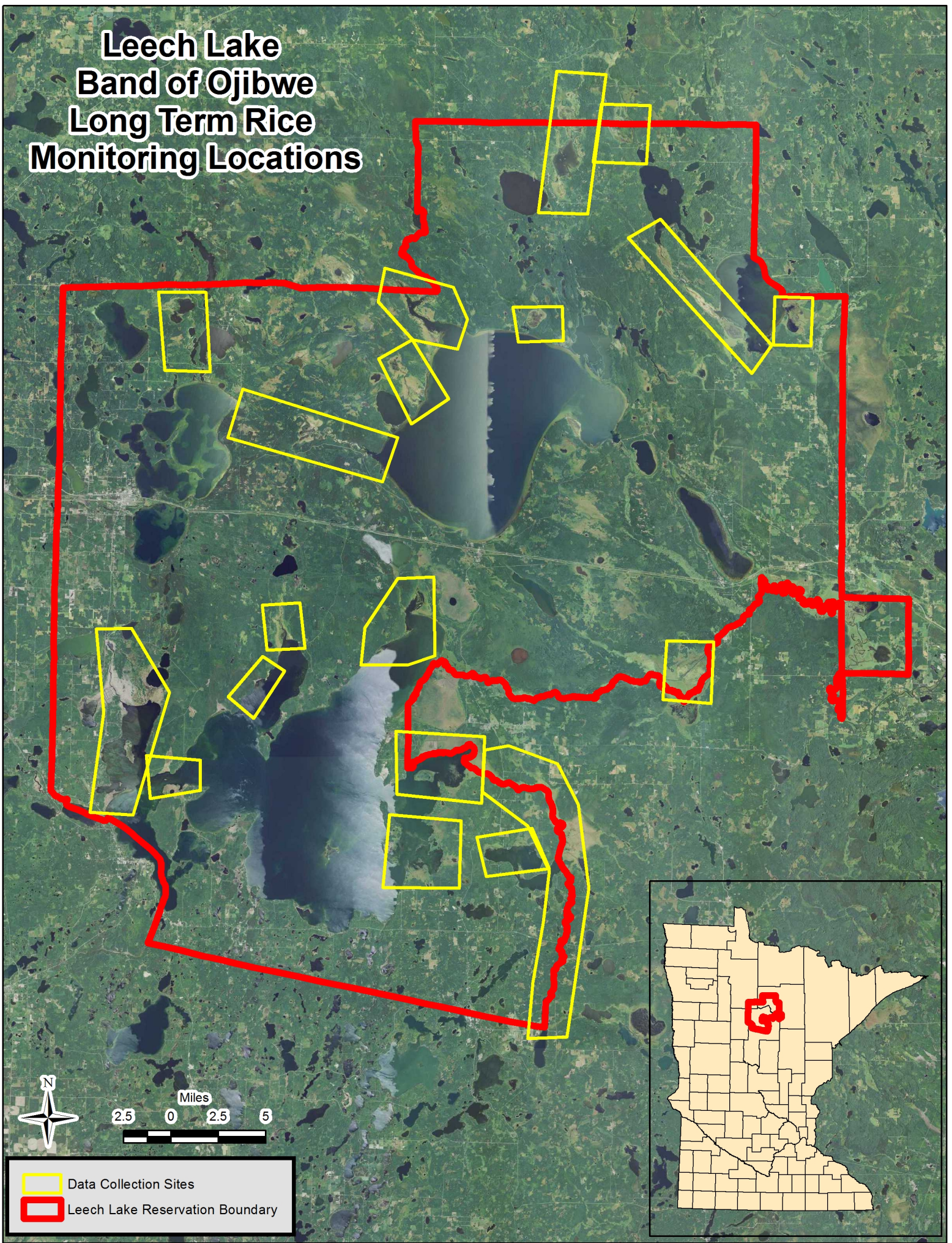
Headquarter
Bay





-  Rice Sites With MN DNR Waterfowl Data
-  Leech Lake Reservation



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Long Term Rice Monitoring Locations



-  Data Collection Sites
-  Leech Lake Reservation Boundary

Comparison of Wild Rice Data and Waterfowl Surveys

Ryan Anderson – GIS Technician, Leech Lake DRM

Dr. Paul Kapfer, Wildlife Biologists, Leech Lake DRM

Dr. Jeff Ueland – Associate Professor of Geography, Bemidji State University

Dr. Jeff Lawrence – Wetland Wildlife Research Group Leader, MN DNR

Steve Cordts – Waterfowl Staff Specialist, MN DNR

Methods

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there was a relationship between the acres of wild rice and waterfowl numbers. Many species of waterfowl feed heavily on wild rice so it is reasonable to assume that more rice would equate to higher duck usage. In order to complete this analysis the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has had ProWest & Associates take aerial photographs of the major wild rice beds on the reservation. From 1993 to 2013, excluding 1997, all of the major wild rice beds on the reservation had aerial imagery capture for their respective locations. The wild rice bed locations that were flown that coincide with areas that the Minnesota DNR have done waterfowl surveys resulted in a data set with ten wild rice beds that will be part of this analysis. These sites are Pigeon Dam, Natures Lake, Rice Lake, Bowstring River/Cow Bay, Muskrat Bay, Mudd Lake, Raven Creek/Rabbit Lake, Third River Flowage, Boy Bay, and Headquarters Bay. The remaining wild rice beds that have aerial imagery for them were digitized at a 1:2000 scale, and amount of rice determined through digitizing was added to the same table.

The Leech Lake Division of Resource Management received each year's aerial images on compact discs in a JPEG format. The images themselves needed to be geo-referenced, that is their existence had to be defined in physical space. The images were referenced utilizing a combination of Farm Service Agency and United States Geological Survey photos through the MNGEO Web Mapping Server. Since photos were not available from every year that could be used as a point of reference, the closest year photos were used if the same year did not exist. The software used to rectify the aerial images was ArcGIS 10 utilizing the geo-referencing tool set. The aerial images were converted to .tiff file when the geo-rectification took place.

Each of these geo-rectified aerial images that coincided with a lake that the Minnesota DNR had waterfowl data for was put into a mosaic dataset, a new feature with the newest version of ArcGIS. A file geodatabase was created for each individual year that photos were taken for, and within the geodatabase an individual mosaic dataset was created for each wild rice bed. The reasoning for putting the photos into the mosaic dataset is that once all images for a given year are placed into this feature, they will be treated as a single image instead of having to perform analysis on each individual photo. Once the images are all added to the mosaic dataset, statistics were calculated for the dataset and footprints were built for a seamless image appearance. From there, the color balancing mosaic dataset tool was applied to each dataset, using histogram as the balancing method. This ensures that the pixels from all images will be changed to match a target histogram, in this case, the image that covered the most area of the wild rice bed. By doing so, the analysis can be run on the entire image because all features will be represented by the same pixel value.

The next step in preparing the aerial images was to build a mask, in this case, a buffer around all bodies of water on the reservation, and extract just that portion of each mosaic dataset. The reason for this is twofold, one; wild rice grows in the water so it doesn't make sense to analyze areas outside of water, and two; it cuts down on the amount data that the software needs to process. These areas that were queried out are where the analysis takes place.

In order to ensure the best possible result from our existing datasets, two additional bands were created from the original aerial image in order to increase the variation in the reflectance values from pixel to pixel, thus allowing for more accurate classification. The first band was created using the Principal Components Tool, found in the ArcGIS tool set. This tool is used to transform data from input bands from a raster dataset from the input multivariate attribute space to a new multivariate attribute space whose axes are rotated with respect to the original space, with the resulting attributes in the new space being uncorrelated. What this new dataset will do is create three new bands from original three band image, with the first band showing the greatest variation in the image, thus that being the fourth band that is added to existing dataset. The second band (in this case the fifth band for the original image) was

created using the Band Ratio tool, taking the red band and dividing it by the green band from the original image. This results in a fifth band that is the ratio of the red and green bands, those bands being responsible for most of the reflectance seen from vegetation in aerial imagery.

After creating these additional two bands, the Composite Band tool is used to combine these bands with the original three band image that is represented by the mosaic dataset. The result is a five band image of the rice beds. After combining the five bands together, classification of the images was the next step. This was done using the Maximum Likelihood Classification Tool. The tool runs an algorithm and assigns each pixel to a class which it has the highest probability of being a member. It determines this based upon signature files that the user defines based upon the aerial image. The classes, in this case, rice or no rice, were defined at this time.

Creating the signature files was done using ten classes per each site for the two classes, rice or no rice. Ten areas in the image that did not have rice were identified as such with the signature file tool as well as ten sites that contain rice. The ability to identify the areas that contained wild rice was the result of several meetings with Lee Westfield at ProWest & Associates. Mr. Westfield has a strong natural resources background, particularly in analyzing aerial imagery, and is a valuable asset for this project. He is an avid ricker from the Leech Lake area, and therefore knows where the rice beds are and what they look like, both from the air and the water. After identifying the different classes, the signature file was built for each site for every year. From there, the Maximum Likelihood Classification Tool was run using the signature file, creating an output that represented rice and no rice for each site. There were instances where the initial signature files did not accurately define rice or no rice in the resulting output, so reclassification was necessary for certain locations.

As each site was being classified, another tool, the Probability Classes Tool, was also being run. This tool requires the same set up as Maximum Likelihood Classification, with signature files being built, and it gave a similar output file, only in this case, each pixel was given a probability. This output will be used to identify density of wild rice in each location, as the resulting output shows what percent of that pixel is appropriated as wild rice, based upon the signature files. The density was broken into two

classes, high density and low density. The cutoff for the groups was 75, anything above was high density and anything below was low density. The cutoff for the bottom of the bracket is 50 percent, since if the pixel is less than 50 percent likely to be composed of rice characteristics based on the signature files, it will be placed in the non-rice category from the Maximum Likelihood Classification Tool. The wild rice identified from this method will be tabulated for each site and compared against waterfowl data from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Once these methods had been run on the aerial imagery, random points were generated in the areas defined as rice and no rice for ground truthing. The ground truthing for both years was done on the Boy Bay wild rice bed on Leech Lake. There was an equal distribution of points, 25 points in the rice areas, and 25 in the non-rice areas. This was to determine the accuracy of software in determining rice and no rice. These points were placed on a GARMIN 76 GPS unit and samplers canoed into the wild rice beds to sample these points. This sampling was conducted for the years 2012 and 2013, with 2012 ground truthing being completed by Ryan Anderson and 2013 completed being done by Lisa Becker. An additional sampling method was also added in 2013, in which the wild rice seeds themselves were weighed to determine rice density.

The additional wild rice beds that are not part of the study that is being conducted with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources were calculated using digitizing with ESRI's ArcGIS software. These wild rice beds were digitized at a constant scale of 1:2000 to ensure consistency throughout the digitizing process. Their results are record in the table as total rice acres, with no densities determined for them.

Waterfowl surveys were flown in Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fixed-wing aircraft (Cessna 185) with a DNR pilot and waterfowl biologist observer. Cruise surveys were flown at altitudes of 150-300 feet above ground level and ocular estimates of numbers and species of waterfowl were recorded. The surveys provide a general index to waterfowl abundance, but counts on individual basins can be influenced by several factors; for example, wind which may influence altitude of flight and

wave action, light conditions may influence how well the observer can detect the birds, or disturbance by hunters, boaters, or eagles may move the birds.

The time frame for when these surveys are conducted were scheduled the week before the duck hunting season opened and week following the opening in all years. Duck season opened the Saturday nearest October 1st (from 28 Sept – 4 Oct) in all years except 2003 and 2004; when it opened the Saturday near September 24th (27 Sept 2003, 25 Sept 2004). From 1993-2002, 2 additional surveys were scheduled at 2 week intervals, typically for mid-October and late-October or early November. Beginning in 2003, Minnesota DNR staff attempted to count waterfowl numbers weekly. The goal was to survey each of the basins on these schedules; however, weather, aircraft maintenance, and other factors contributed to incomplete or canceled surveys. Especially from 1993-2002, when fewer surveys were scheduled, missed counts resulted in sparse data for determining waterfowl use.

Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), ring-necked ducks (*Aythya collaris*), and coots (*Fulica Americana*) were generally the most abundant species and are species that use wild rice for both food and cover; thus, DNR staff examined counts of these species relative to wild rice abundance. When determining waterfowl abundance, DNR waterfowl staff considered 2 measures:

1. The number of each species on the basin the week immediately prior to waterfowl opening.
2. The number of duck use days from the week prior to waterfowl opening through the end of October. Duck use days were calculated as $7 * (\text{the number of ducks counted})$ for each week of the period. If there was no survey that week, the number was inferred from an average of the counts before and after that week.

From the data set that was provided by the Minnesota DNR, the number of duck days were calculated for mallards, ring-necked ducks, coots, and Canada geese for a four week window in October for each year, using the methods described above to tabulate duck days.

Results

Figure 1. Scatter plots indicating relationship between duck days, an index of waterfowl abundance, and area of total, high, and low density wild rice beds on Leech Lake Reservation, Minnesota.

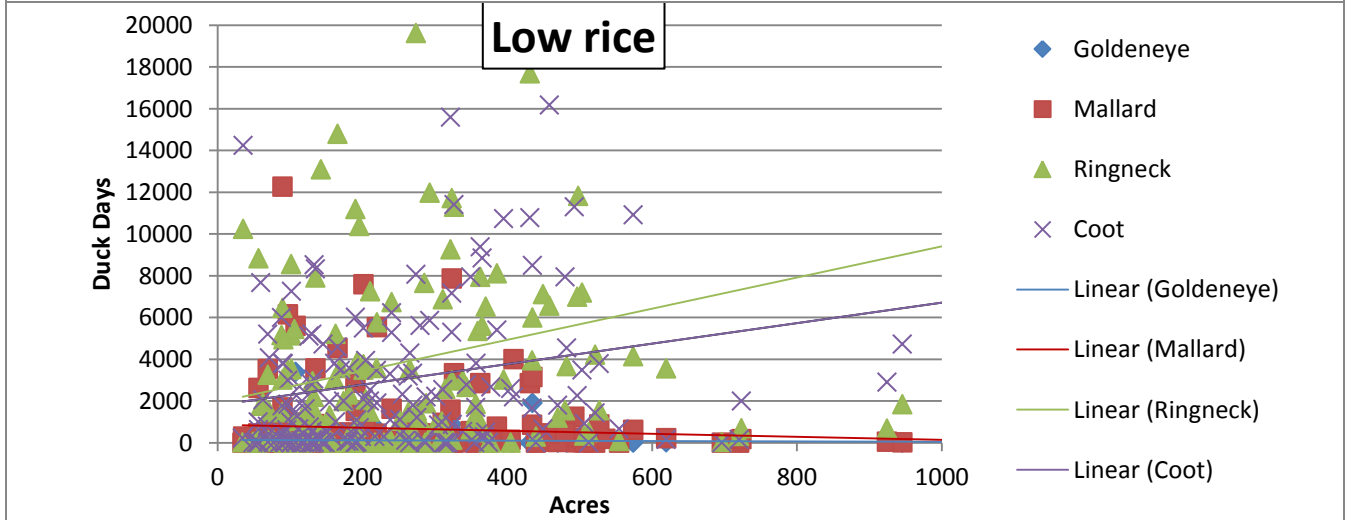
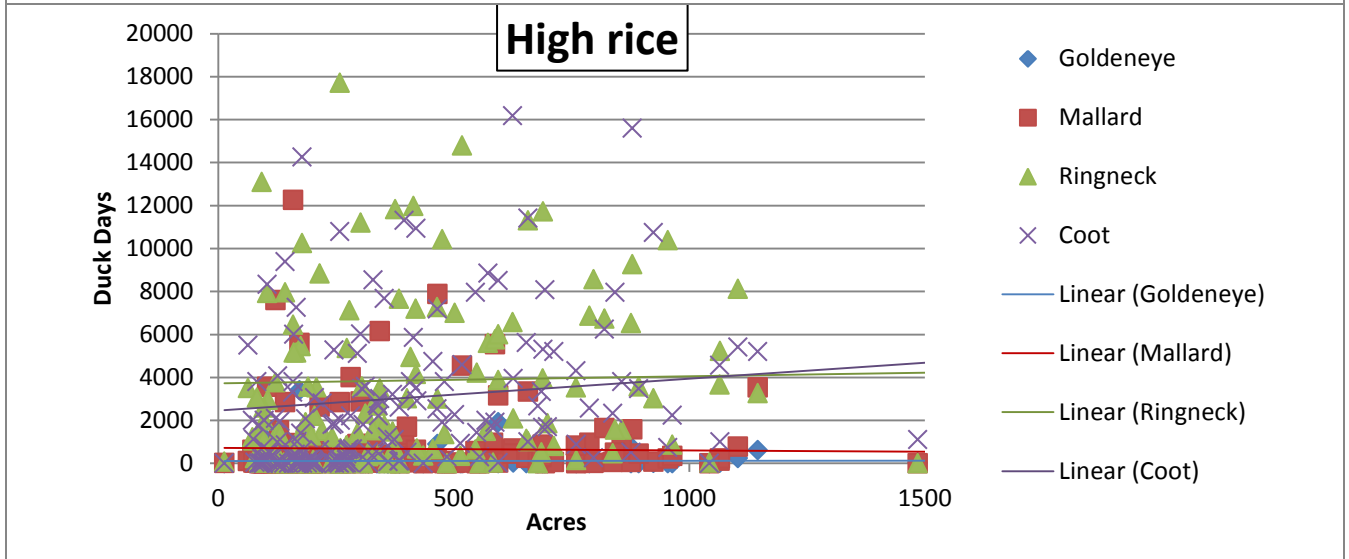
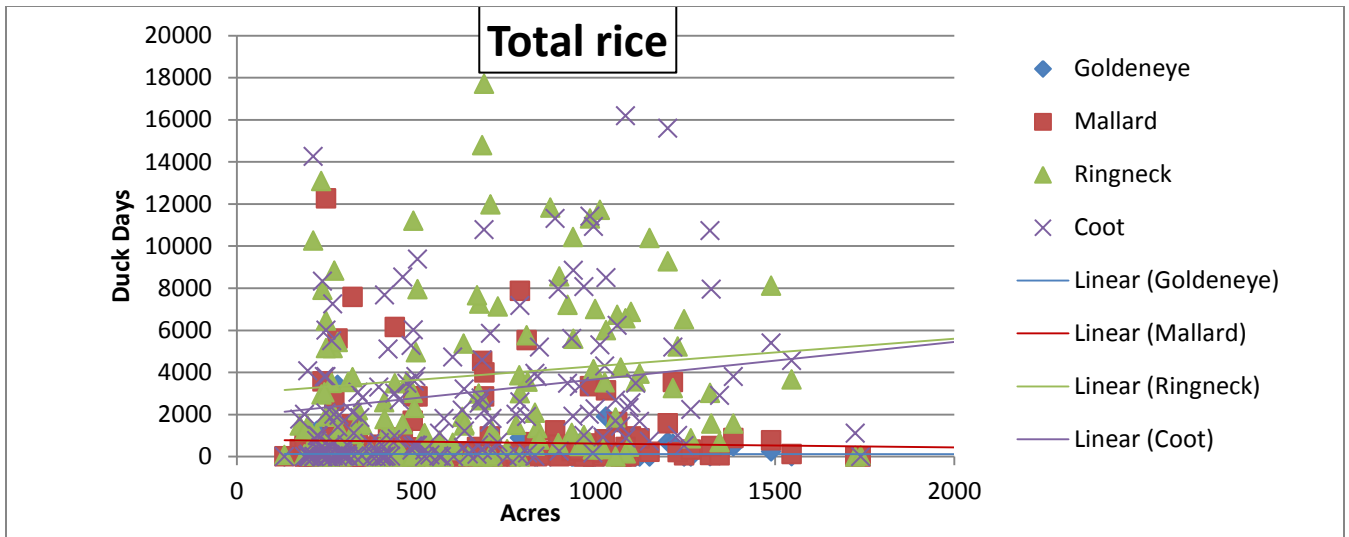


Figure 2. Duck days for Coots relative to total, high and low density rice acreage on Raven and Rabbit Bays, Leech Lake Reservation.

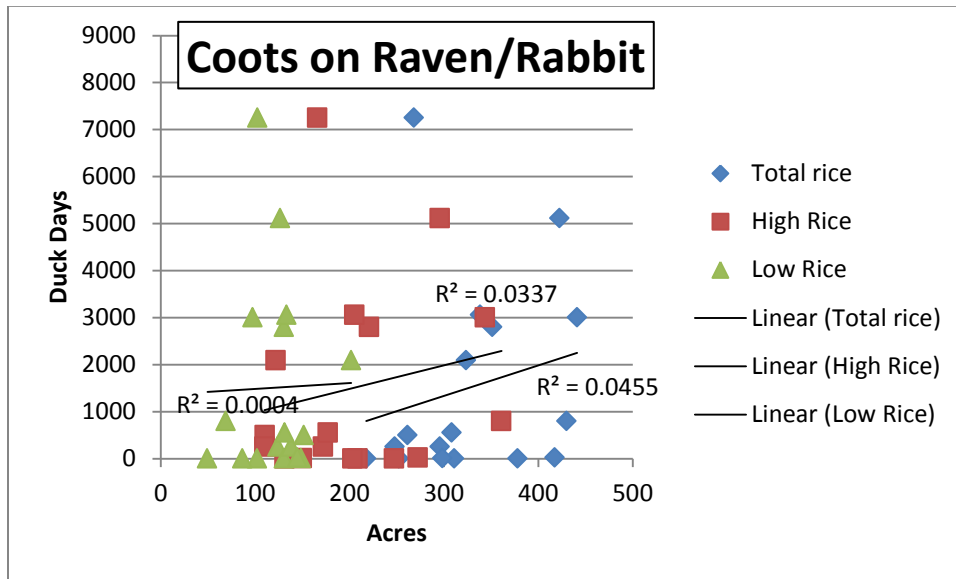


Figure 3. The following image represents the differences between a basic classification, in this case, digitizing wild rice beds (left hand image) based upon visual interpretation of the image. The classification of wild rice based upon utilizing ArcGIS software is

on the right, and the differences are apparent when the images are placed side by side.

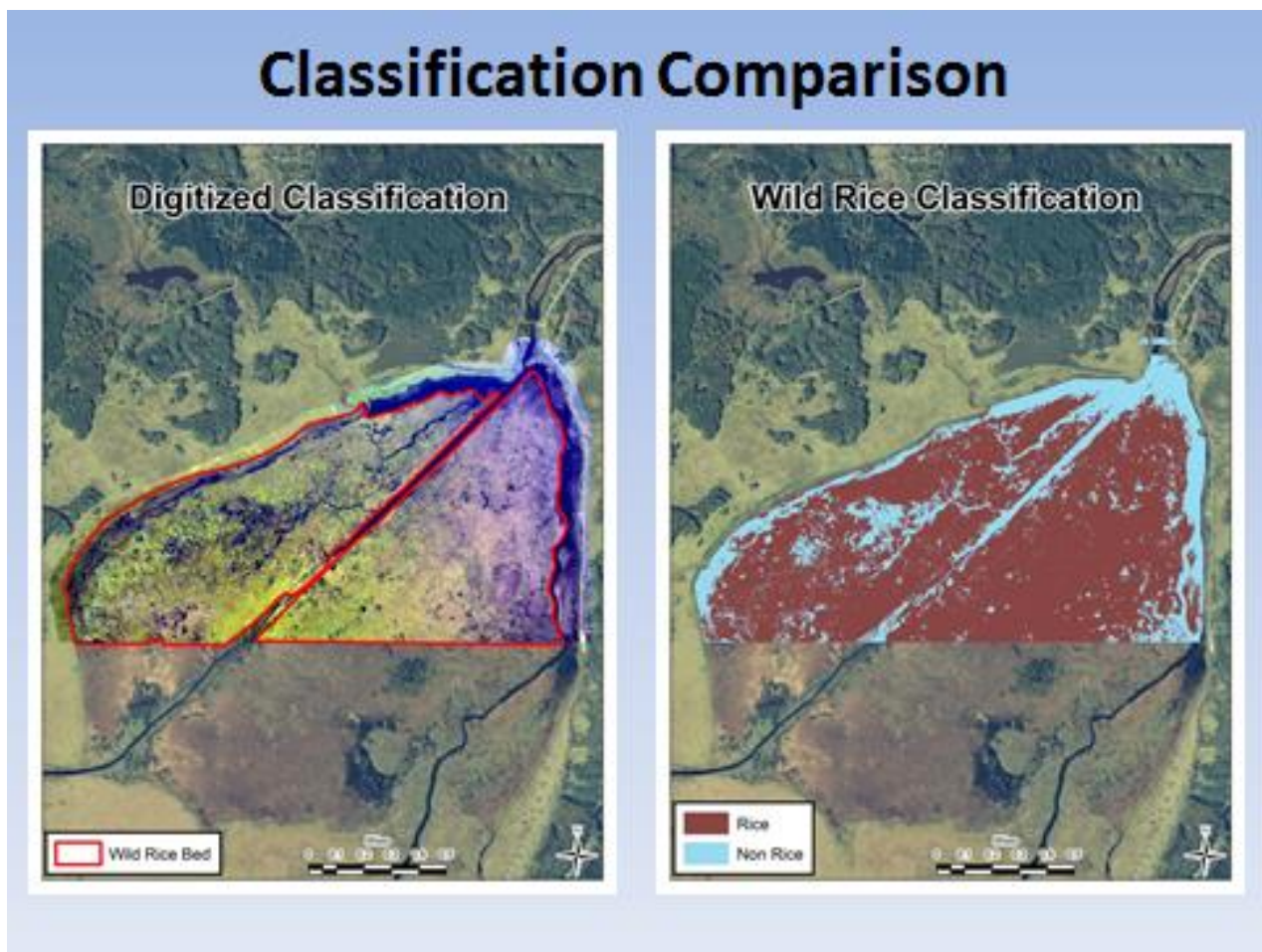


Figure 4. Annual variation in the acreage of total, high and low density rice beds as delineated using aerial imagery and ArcGIS.

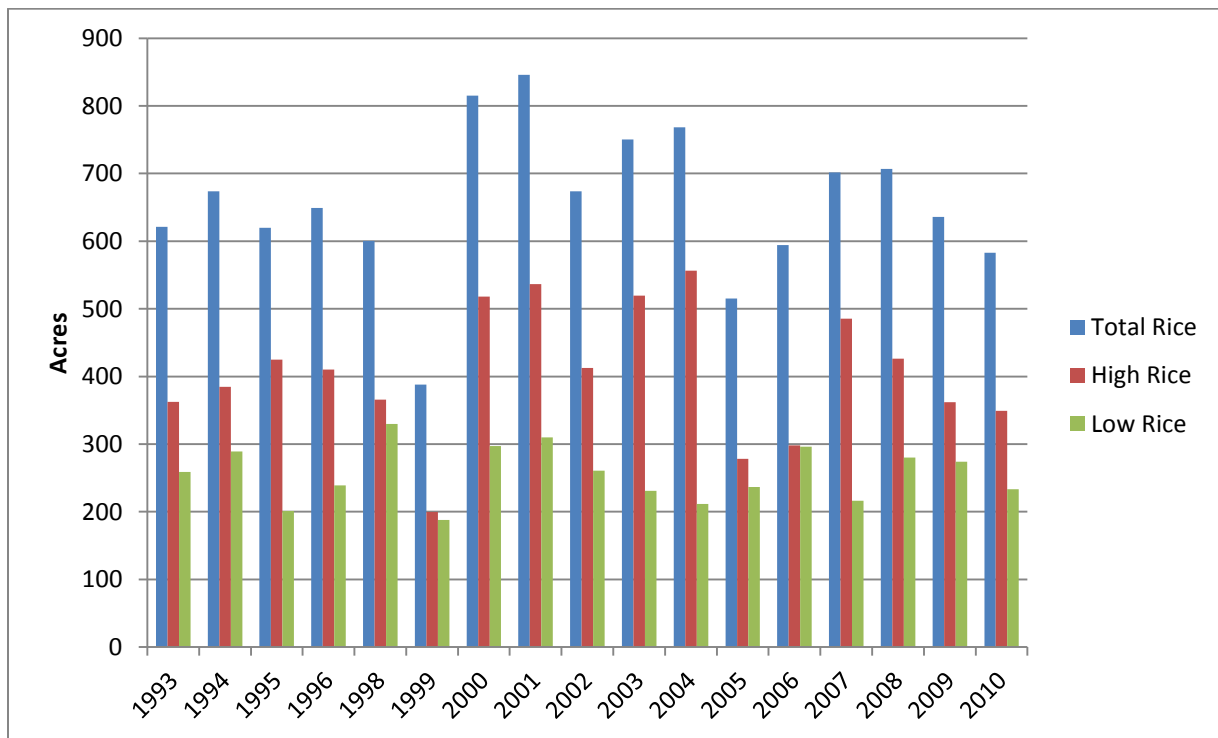
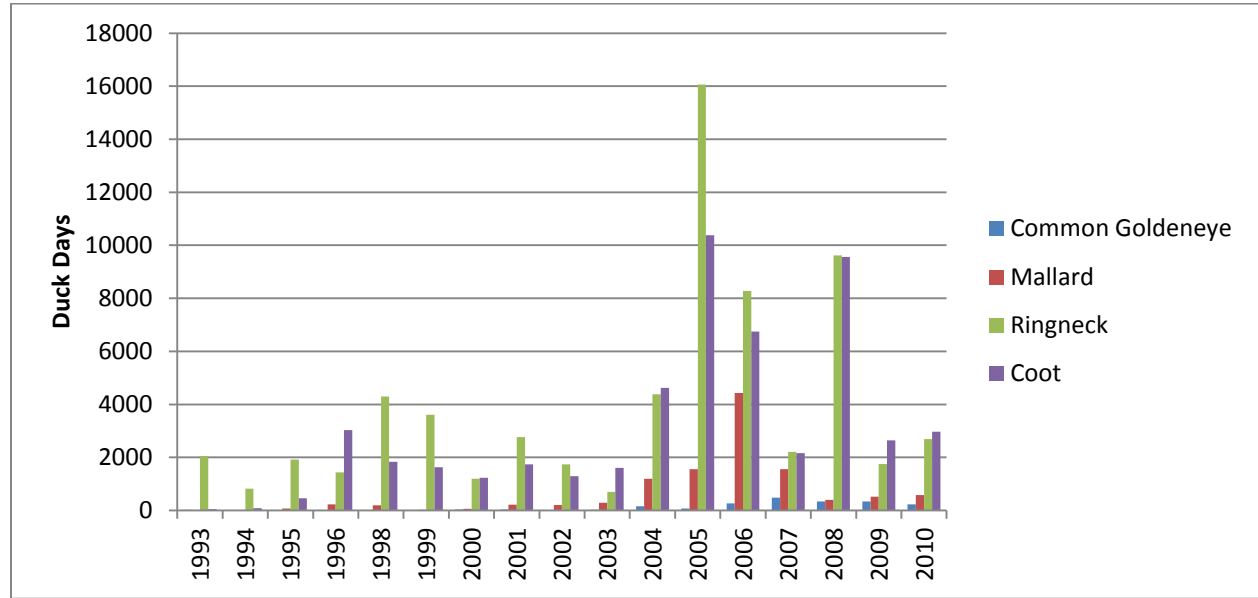


Figure 5. Duck days (log) across all rice beds from 1993 to 2009, excluding 1997 due to missing data.



Discussion

Assessing the accuracy of this GIS process was determining through the use of ground truthing. As stated, using ESRI's ArcGIS software, 50 points were randomly generated, with 25 being no rice, and 25 being rice. In 2012, the software accurately identified 88% of the rice/no rice locations. In order to determine if the Probability tool was correctly identifying densities of rice, a simple density assessment was done at 40 of these 50 points. Using the classification of high/low for density of rice, with < %50 of a 1 meter square covered by rice constituting low and anything above %50 representing high. Of the 20 that were sampled as low density in the field, 18 were correctly identified by the ArcGIS software. Of the 20 that were sampled as high density, 15 were correctly identified by the ArcGIS software, with an overall accuracy by the software for density of 82.5%

Ground truthing in 2013, 50 points were again used in the same as in 2012 to assess accuracy in Boy Bay. Of the 50 points generated, 49 were correctly identified as either rice or no rice using the ESRI's ArcGIS software, for an accuracy of 98%. The 25 points designated as rice only had one instance where

rice was not found at a specific location. The densities that were determined in the field (medium and high were lumped into high as the GIS software is only using two classifications, high and low) resulted in only two instances where the field sample gave a density of low and the GIS software labeled those point densities as high. A possible explanation for this is that these two points were on the edge of the rice beds. These densities were determined the same way in the field, percentage covered of a one meter square. Overall, 98% of the points were correctly determined for rice/no rice by the GIS software for Boy Bay.

In 2013, it was speculated that the weight of the wild rice sampled from random points within a one meter square would be assessed to see if it was a viable way to determine densities for wild rice. Since the presence of the stalk does not necessarily correlate with a higher density of actual wild rice, this method may lead to a more accurate assessment of wild rice. Random sites were determined on the Natures Lake wild rice bed as well as the Cow Bay rice bed along with collecting from the sites on Boy Bay. It was determined that the weight of the seeds did not correlate with the designated densities the GIS software had predicated, i.e. the lighter weight of seeds was located in high density areas and vice versa. Some explanations for this could be contributed to difficulties that arose. This included trying this method were ricing season had already started, with rice already harvested from sample sites. There was also a large variation in the rice between the three beds, so a sample size of all the rice beds would better sample size.

These initial numbers are promising in regards to utilizing this methodology to determine wild rice through aerial photography. Moving forward there are several techniques that can improve these numbers. An additional step to improve classification will be to add additional metrics to the model, in the hopes that it will “weed out” excess data that does not need to be sampled, and thus reduce the misclassification of wild rice. The datasets can be further trimmed down by the use of bathymetric data, since wild rice will only grow in a certain water depth. By adding this data set to the original mask that was created, the areas that won’t support wild rice can be removed. If further imagery is to be taken of the wild rice beds, a helpful improvement would be if infrared imagery can be taken. The reason for this is that actively growing plants, in this case wild rice, exhibit a high near infrared reflectance

(approximately six times stronger than a plant's reflectance of visible green light). As a result, actively growing vegetation will show up prominently on an aerial image as bright red. This would be very beneficial as the water around which wild rice grows in would appear very dark, in contrast to the bright red wild rice. This would be very beneficial in classifying wild rice, not just from a visual standpoint, but by also supplying another band in the image.

Again, these results show promise utilizing this model verses digitizing aerial imagery, in that there is some statistical certainty behind the values in the results table. By no means are they 100 percent accurate, but for now they represent the base of an impressive data set that represents 18 years' worth of valuable data pertaining to wild rice.

Despite use of wild rice by waterfowl, there was limited evidence that wild rice abundance had an impact on waterfowl numbers (Figure 1). Coefficients of determination (R^2) between wild rice abundance and waterfowl numbers ranged from < 0.00001 to 0.035, indicating that at most wild rice abundance explained approximately 3.5% of the variation in waterfowl abundance. The limited impact of rice abundance on waterfowl numbers is surprising, but might be explained by a combination of sampling errors associated with miscounting waterfowl, for which we have no estimate of error, and measuring wild rice abundance. Furthermore, alternative food sources, for which we have no data, may be more important to waterfowl numbers than is wild rice. Hunting pressure probably also plays a role in the number of waterfowl utilizing an area. If hunting pressure is high, ducks are likely to avoid an area even though it may have an abundant food supply.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: Duck days and rice acreage by year on Leech Lake Reservation.

Year	Common Goldeneye	Duck Days				Total Ducks	Rice Acreage			RiceBed
		Mallard	Ringneck	Coot	Total Rice		High Rice	Low Rice		
1993	13	0	3535	0	3548	310.841	208.548	102.293	RavenRabbit	
1994	0	5	145	0	150	217.642	131.234	86.408	RavenRabbit	
1995	0	13	53	0	66	252.407	203.11	49.297	RavenRabbit	
1996	0	506	645	255	1406	295.722	171.89	123.832	RavenRabbit	
1998	0	315	265	500	1080	261.629	110.142	151.487	RavenRabbit	
1999	0	4	31	5	40	298.323	149.577	148.746	RavenRabbit	
2000	35	83	140	0	258	378.147	247.407	130.74	RavenRabbit	
2001	0	310	630	250	1190	248.02	109.888	138.132	RavenRabbit	
2002	0	500	831	20	1351	417.284	272.418	144.866	RavenRabbit	
2003	0	276	131	795	1202	429.935	360.834	69.101	RavenRabbit	
2004	0	265	537	554	1356	308.192	176.952	131.24	RavenRabbit	
2005	0	943	5144	7253	1334	268.145	165.743	102.402	RavenRabbit	
2006	0	7588	3765	2090	1263	323.492	121.772	201.72	RavenRabbit	
2007	0	6153	3480	3000	3	441.113	343.573	97.54	RavenRabbit	
2008	105	890	1395	5110	7500	422.399	295.722	126.677	RavenRabbit	
2009	105	475	1500	2800	4880	351.341	220.749	130.592	RavenRabbit	
2010	190	682	2205	3055	6132	338.498	205.11	133.388	RavenRabbit	
1993	10	33	327	90	460	308.63	126.665	181.965	ThirdRiver	
1994	11	0	53	25	89	269.578	124.833	144.745	ThirdRiver	
1995	0	295	92	110	497	201.854	170.164	95.741	ThirdRiver	
1996	6	447	247	1005	1705	224.891	168.357	56.534	ThirdRiver	
1998	0	605	150	145	900	297.842	201.854	95.988	ThirdRiver	
1999	0	24	238	48	310	198.564	78.568	119.996	ThirdRiver	
2000	35	4	290	1850	2179	343.856	246.514	97.342	ThirdRiver	
2001	80	311	25	0	416	204.375	86.947	117.428	ThirdRiver	
2002	40	127	165	40	372	348.924	254.371	94.553	ThirdRiver	
2003	4	555	391	670	1620	398.294	285.647	112.647	ThirdRiver	
2004	70	33	36	31	170	349.758	279.634	70.124	ThirdRiver	
2005	12	341	1465	1770	3588	175.964	86.594	89.37	ThirdRiver	
2006	84	584	1475	4070	6213	198.357	126.384	71.973	ThirdRiver	
2007	25	10	115	0	150	202.384	124.674	77.71	ThirdRiver	
2008	25	97	1900	2065	4087	248.951	185.674	63.277	ThirdRiver	
2009	35	35	550	200	820	236.954	97.569	139.385	ThirdRiver	
2010	15	35	275	625	950	371.524	275.161	96.363	ThirdRiver	
1993	0	0	1	0	1	256.851	202.651	54.2	PigeonDam	
1994	0	80	155	0	235	239.684	123.854	115.83	PigeonDam	
1995	0	10	15	220	245	288.954	254.237	34.717	PigeonDam	
1996	0	10	25	985	1020	227.548	125.984	101.564	PigeonDam	

1998	0	0	22	0	22	241.598	139.548	102.05	PigeonDam
1999	6	0	75	0	81	215.671	86.957	128.714	PigeonDam
2000	0	25	112	415	552	234.821	164.351	70.47	PigeonDam
2001	0	0	110	0	110	189.957	96.284	93.673	PigeonDam
2002	0	110	16	0	126	236.842	179.354	57.488	PigeonDam
2003	61	65	8	40	174	294.856	202.497	92.359	PigeonDam
					1261				
2004	515	2634	8831	630	0	272.814	215.874	56.94	PigeonDam
2005	138	112	2952	160	3362	236.849	105.375	131.474	PigeonDam
					2320				
2006	695	12260	6452	3800	7	249.159	158.956	90.203	PigeonDam
					1005				
2007	3400	5600	1050	0	0	281.184	172.954	108.23	PigeonDam
2008	1215	455	1090	760	3520	223.558	96.524	127.034	PigeonDam
2009	875	620	1200	2000	4695	189.842	72.891	116.951	PigeonDam
2010	1115	513	5445	1400	8473	281.923	175.338	106.585	PigeonDam
1993	0	0	2585	0	2585	411.584	96.854	314.73	NatureLake
1994	0	45	7120	670	7835	728.306	278.596	449.71	NatureLake
						1247.72			
1995	0	55	6520	510	7085	1	876.942	370.779	NatureLake
				1073	1384				
1996	10	77	3025	0	2	1320.08	924.614	395.466	NatureLake
						1714	1013.22		
1998	40	85	11720	5300	5	2	689.589	323.633	NatureLake
1999	0	34	13090	225	9	235.91	92.719	143.191	NatureLake
						1090			
2000	190	44	7195	3480	9	922.979	419.549	503.43	NatureLake
						1010			
2001	185	125	7260	2535	5	676.198	465.297	210.901	NatureLake
						1071.16			
2002	53	0	4215	1435	5703	3	549.281	521.882	NatureLake
							1547.00	1064.86	
2003	8	111	3665	4550	8334	6	3	482.143	NatureLake
				1558	2712	1201.66			
2004	694	1579	9266	8	7	1	879.594	322.067	NatureLake
				3320	8903				
2005	124	1527	54177	5	3	320.628	129.365	191.263	NatureLake
				1130	3412				
2006	290	1250	21285	0	5	888.15	395.279	492.871	NatureLake
						1453	1489.73	1103.92	
2007	240	775	8120	5400	5	1	1	385.81	NatureLake
				3540	9130				
2008	320	185	55400	0	5	887.582	351.943	535.639	NatureLake
2009	135	95	3500	5500	9230	265.382	63.399	201.983	NatureLake
						1149			
2010	119	222	5150	6000	1	248.934	160.348	88.586	NatureLake
1993	0	0	305	0	305	605.242	165.521	439.721	RiceLake
1994	0	0	1	0	1	571.425	257.516	313.909	RiceLake
1995	0	0	10	115	125	646.176	386.273	259.903	RiceLake
1996	0	240	1885	2200	4325	628.976	340.76	288.216	RiceLake

1998	0	455	7655	100	8210	670.212	384.463	285.749	RiceLake
1999	0	0	25	10	35	404.736	91.509	313.227	RiceLake
2000	0	57	2675	2775	5507	681.594	337.635	343.959	RiceLake
2001	0	75	5360	425	5860	632.82	273.196	359.624	RiceLake
2002	0	25	2995	545	3565	675.013	336.33	338.683	RiceLake
2003	0	0	0	290	290	713.773	555.413	158.36	RiceLake
					2392				
2004	0	4542	14794	4590	6	684.269	518.123	166.146	RiceLake
					6985				
2005	0	4000	63650	2200	0	690.834	281.802	409.032	RiceLake
				1077	3132				
2006	0	2850	17700	5	5	690.257	258.573	431.684	RiceLake
2007	210	235	1470	3200	5115	634.231	370.513	263.718	RiceLake
					1808				
2008	150	103	11980	5855	8	708.106	415.065	293.041	RiceLake
2009	75	85	490	300	950	524.597	155.977	368.62	RiceLake
2010	87	330	4950	3790	9157	500.391	408.884	91.507	RiceLake
									BowstringRive
1993	0	33	3865	35	3933	787.898	594.852	193.046	r
									BowstringRive
1994	1	10	332	162	505	993.076	272.599	720.477	r
									BowstringRive
1995	0	18	7000	2255	9273	999.645	502.583	497.062	r
									BowstringRive
1996	0	5	1355	3800	5160	838.384	480.905	357.479	r
					1244			1414.21	BowstringRive
1998	0	105	10425	1910	0	938.102	476.115	7	r
									BowstringRive
1999	0	75	1105	0	1180	523.951	168.464	355.487	r
									BowstringRive
2000	0	70	513	12	595	831.981	319.32	512.661	r
									BowstringRive
2001	22	225	3560	160	3967	811.109	191.497	619.612	r
									BowstringRive
2002	0	204	1855	1695	3754	1056.17	699.268	356.902	r
						1021.39			BowstringRive
2003	0	25	340	921	1286	1	514.579	506.812	r
						1093.95			BowstringRive
2004	75	62	462	2320	2919	5	838.206	255.749	r
				2305	3513				BowstringRive
2005	0	250	11825	5	0	874.468	376.094	498.374	r
				1092	1570				BowstringRive
2006	0	625	4150	5	0	994.717	420.394	574.323	r
						1085.24			BowstringRive
2007	0	0	145	875	1020	9	760.552	324.697	r
					1482				BowstringRive
2008	20	360	5594	8850	4	938.437	572.713	365.724	r
									BowstringRive
2009	25	175	700	2000	2900	983.552	259.939	723.613	r
									BowstringRive
2010	0	30	1200	1800	3030	711.996	241.888	470.108	r
1993	0	0	1295	25	1355	327.951	197.684	130.267	MuskratBay

1994	0	25	0	10	117	429.607	239.413	190.194	MuskratBay
1995	0	12	0	70	7572 1288	538.854	360.76	178.094	MuskratBay
1996	0	440	3575	3475	5	475.28	305.443	169.837	MuskratBay
1998	0	105	15	5275	5477	487.016	246.41	240.606	MuskratBay
1999	0	7	75	0	694	133.228	12.924	120.304	MuskratBay
2000	6	31	25	550	3977	499.15	242.457	256.693	MuskratBay
2001	25	85	1305	1950	5566	286.02	131.145	154.875	MuskratBay
2002	0	31	1060	1110	3166	326.784	74.697	252.087	MuskratBay
2003	0	99	331	535	4461 2330	504.314	319.222	185.092	MuskratBay
2004	15	399	397	2685	4 3989	453.727	340.156	113.571	MuskratBay
2005	6	3562	7915	8325	3 2531	239.752	104.197	135.555	MuskratBay
2006	0	2865	11200	6020	0 3005	493.157	302.344	190.813	MuskratBay
2007	0	1700	3025	500 1425	5 2933	491.37	401.17	90.2	MuskratBay
2008	35	295	10250	0	0 1150	213.859	178.282	35.577	MuskratBay
2009	0	500	2000	2000	1	272.043	97.837	174.206	MuskratBay
2010	25	131	3045	3800	7001	244.451	82.62	161.831	MuskratBay
1993	155	7	8558	250	8970	899.203	797.195	102.008	MuddLake
1994	0	0	350	0	350	754.219	435.684	318.535	MuddLake
1995	150	215	5220	1000	6585	1229.12	1065.82		MuddLake
1996	0	440	3575	3475	7490 1132	2 1150.95	893.041	219.971	MuddLake
1998	0	218	10380	725	3 2769	6	954.8	196.156	MuddLake
1999	0	0	19620	8070	0	968.572	694.295	274.277	MuddLake
2000	0	337	865	2225	3427 1038	5 1099.74	964.44	301.755	MuddLake
2001	0	955	6870	2555	0	9	788.177	311.572	MuddLake
2002	0	860	3940	1665	6465	4	688.981	434.433	MuddLake
2003	35	680	2081	3945	6741 1465	831.543 1060.87	626.542	205.001	MuddLake
2004	54	1632	6735	6233 1140	4 2620	4	820.156	240.718	MuddLake
2005	155	3338	11305	5	3 1387	984.863	658.039	326.824	MuddLake
2006	675	5535	5765	1900	5	808.405	588.22	220.185	MuddLake
2007	395	822	3525	4300 1618	9042 2362	5	759.946	266.029	MuddLake
2008	435	447	6565	0	7	1084.03	625.694	458.336	MuddLake
2009	1900	3150	6000	8500	1955	1029.64	594.776	434.869	MuddLake

					0	5				
					1260	1215.78	1146.05			
2010	610	3535	3255	5200	0	7	2	69.735	MuddLake	
1993	0	0	0	20	20	564.298	189.842	374.456	HQBay	
1994	0	0	0	0	0	389.596	123.65	265.946	HQBay	
1995	0	50	300	0	350	402.65	268.516	134.134	HQBay	
1996	0	150	0	2600	2750	789.546	384.564	404.982	HQBay	
1998	0	5	0	850	855	448.351	142.711	305.64	HQBay	
1999	0	0	0	300	300	489.234	271.658	217.576	HQBay	
2000	50	4	0	300	354	685.359	486.24	199.119	HQBay	
2001	58	26	656	4730	5470	602.365	456.21	146.155	HQBay	
2002	0	175	1540	1220	2935	635.291	359.684	275.607	HQBay	
2003	135	953	27	1630	2745	705.642	584.214	121.428	HQBay	
2004	0	248	1127	5610	6985	934.624	654.824	279.8	HQBay	
2005	132	560	637	7945	9274	896.517	546.834	349.683	HQBay	
					1894					
2006	895	7875	3000	7170	0	789.684	465.951	323.733	HQBay	
2007	375	250	1020	1000	2645	968.254	658.251	310.003	HQBay	
						1384.48				
2008	490	875	1555	3795	6715	2	857.125	527.357	HQBay	
						1724.91				
2009	25	0	0	1100	1125	4	1485.89	239.024	HQBay	
						1346.66				
2010	55	58	685	2900	3698	4	422.224	924.44	HQBay	
						1740.00				
1993	0	0	35	0	35	8	1043.23	696.778	BoyBay	
						2144.23	1857.25			
1994	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	286.976	BoyBay	
1995	0	0	0	300	300	389.587	159.634	229.953	BoyBay	
1996	0	5	0	1800	1805	578.236	307.85	270.386	BoyBay	
1998	0	50	2300	3575	5925	495.073	312.765	182.308	BoyBay	
1999	0	100	1773	7675	9548	412.456	352.64	59.816	BoyBay	
						2307.33	1752.49			
2000	0	2	85	670	757	3	8	554.835	BoyBay	
						3710.19	2764.29			
2001	0	25	1850	4725	6600	7	4	945.903	BoyBay	
2002	25	60	805	5195	6085	844.02	713.156	130.864	BoyBay	
2003	0	98	3	2670	2771	1056.38	678.846	377.534	BoyBay	
						1018	1322.92			
2004	175	495	1560	7950	0	2	842.61	480.312	BoyBay	
						1106				
2005	120	890	1525	8525	0	463.107	329.23	133.877	BoyBay	
						2018				
2006	0	2850	7950	9380	0	504.829	141.979	362.85	BoyBay	
2007	215	50	180	3300	3745	396.945	158.65	238.295	BoyBay	
2008	615	280	500	3330	4725	956.188	686.27	269.918	BoyBay	
2009	150	100	1500	2000	3750	779.052	568.7	210.352	BoyBay	
						566.176	373.676			
2010	85	230	750	1100	2165	2	2	192.5	BoyBay	

M.L. 2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas (2g)

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WEBSITE: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2g

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$30,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. DNR, Section of Wildlife administers and manages habitat restoration and development of infrastructure necessary for public access on lands acquired by partners for State WMAs. Habitat restoration and infrastructure development of new WMAs needs to be tied to the proposed land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). This project funding component (2g) ensured that the DNR had funding available to complete necessary initial site development and habitat restoration for newly acquired lands when they are transferred from the partner organizations to the DNR for long term management. Adequate funding ensures that newly acquired lands can be entered into the WMA system on a timely basis.

Funding from this HCP project (2g) provided for the demolition of several dilapidated buildings along with site cleanup and rehabilitation at the newly acquired Dora Lake WMA in Le Sueur County. Removal of the farmstead buildings and debris at Dora Lake was an important first step in providing wildlife habitat and making the unit safe for public users. Two newly acquired WMA parcels, Rice Lake WMA in Faribault County and Sanborn Lake WMA in Le Sueur County received professional boundary surveys in preparation for posting and public use.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Outcomes from this HCP project (2g) will directly benefit public use of three newly acquired WMA properties. Safe and clearly signed WMA properties are a visible indicator of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund accomplishments on the landscape.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: 12/12/2013

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? No

Project Title: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas (2g)

Project Manager: Jami Markle

Affiliation: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5175

Email Address: jami.markle@state.mn.us

Web Address: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	30,000
	Amount Spent \$:	29,908
	Balance \$:	92

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2g

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: 2g - HCP7- Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. DNR, Section of Wildlife administers and manages habitat restoration and development of infrastructure necessary for public access on lands acquired by partners for State WMAs. Habitat restoration and infrastructure development of new WMAs needs to be tied to the proposed land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). This project funding component (2g) ensured that the DNR had funding available to complete necessary initial site development and habitat restoration for newly acquired lands when they are transferred from the partner organizations to the DNR for long term management. Adequate funding ensures that newly acquired lands can be entered into the WMA system on a timely basis.

Funding from this HCP project (2g) provided for the demolition of several dilapidated buildings along with site cleanup and rehabilitation at the newly acquired Dora Lake WMA in Le Sueur County. Removal of the farmstead buildings and debris at Dora Lake was an important first step in providing wildlife habitat and making the unit safe for public users. Two newly acquired WMA parcels, Rice Lake WMA in Faribault County and Sanborn Lake WMA in Le Sueur County received professional boundary surveys in preparation for posting and public use.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (May 24, 2012): WMA development funding from this appropriation has not been spent to date. The DNR Wildlife Section continues to monitor and track the acquisition status of key parcels that will require development work to meet minimum standards for inclusion as WMAs under the Outdoor Recreation System. It is likely that projects will be identified during the summer and fall of 2012, as HCP acquisition parcels are optioned and closed. Initial Development Plans will be created for these sites, outlining costs and means to accomplish habitat and facility development objectives.

Project Status as of (November 28, 2012): DNR requisitions have been submitted for initial development work on two new Wildlife Management Area additions purchased in fee title by partner organizations utilizing HCP VII funding. The 510 acre Cannon River 1 parcel purchased by Trust for Public Lands has been transferred to DNR as an addition to Dora Lake WMA in Le Sueur County. Another 160 acre parcel in Le Sueur County was purchased in fee title by Pheasants Forever to be transferred to DNR as Sanborn Lake WMA. These projects will include surveying, boundary posting, site cleanup, and seeding. Work on these properties will begin during the winter months and continue into the spring of 2013.

Amendment Request (November 28, 2012): The initial development work identified for new LCCMR partner acquisitions in Le Sueur County will be accomplished through contracting, rather than through DNR staff or resources. This amendment request does not change the scope of the work, but rather shifts funding originally requested for DNR personnel, equipment, and fleet to the budget lines for contracts.

Amendment approved by LCCMR staff, December 14, 2012.

Project Status as of (May, 2013): DNR recently prepared contract specs to remove buildings and clean up an old farmstead site on the newly acquired Dora Lake WMA. The project is currently out to bid and the contracted site clean-up work will commence in June, 2013. Two other WMA properties have been surveyed and will be posted with boundary signs as part of the new WMA development process. Both of the surveyed tracts were donated to DNR by Pheasants Forever.

Project Status as of (November, 2013): Contracted site cleanup work at Dora Lake WMA has been completed, along with professional survey and boundary posting at Rice Lake WMA and Sanborn Lake WMA.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restoration of habitat for wildlife

Description: HCP Partners have estimated that 200 acres will be acquired and transferred to DNR, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. Habitat restoration for wildlife on the acquired land may include but is not limited to grassland development or improvement, wetland restoration or impoundment development, forest or woody cover development or improvement, brush land management, professional services, and food plot development. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement restoration on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
Amount Spent: \$ 15,000
Balance: \$ 0

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
3. <i>Service Contracts: contracts for labor and land management activities such as site prep, seeding, etc.</i>	June 30, 2014	\$ 15,000

Activity Status as of (May 24, 2012): No activity to date.

Activity Status as of (November 28, 2012): No expenditures to date. Requisitions for habitat enhancement contract work have been submitted and are in process. Funding for these projects will be encumbered during the winter months, with the bulk of the work occurring in the spring of 2013.

Activity Status as of (May 20, 2013): \$15,000 has been encumbered in a bid request to remove the buildings and debris from the farmstead at Dora Lake WMA (Trust for Public Lands acquisition) so the site can be restored as wildlife habitat. The project is currently out for bids, funding tied to the contract will be expended during the summer of 2013. This activity is an important precursor to development of woody cover and grassland habitat on this new WMA property.

Final Report Summary: A contract was awarded for the building demolition and site cleanup at Dora Lake WMA (Trust for Public Lands acquisition). The Dora Lake site clean-up and initial development is an important step in providing wildlife habitat on this newly acquired WMA parcel.

ACTIVITY 2: Development of infrastructure necessary for public access on WMAs

Description: Infrastructure management may include but is not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, professional services, public access, parking lots, user facilities, and clean up of old buildings or wells. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement development on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
Amount Spent: \$ 14,908
Balance: \$ 92

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
2. Professional/Technical Contracts: DNR engineering services, land surveys, historical/cultural review contracts.	June 30, 2014	\$ 15,000

Activity Status as of (May 24, 2012): No activity to date.

Activity Status as of (November 28, 2012): No expenditures to date. Requisitions for surveying and site cleanup have been submitted and are in process. Cultural and environmental reviews have been initiated. Funding for these projects will be encumbered during the winter months, with the bulk of the work taking place in the spring of 2013.

Activity Status as of (May 20, 2013): To date, professional surveys have been funded for Sanborn Lake WMA and Rice Lake WMA. As a result, property boundaries will be posted as part of the initial development of these newly acquired lands. Both of these properties were acquired by Pheasants Forever with LCCMR funding and donated to DNR to become part of the WMA system.

Final Report Summary: Professional boundary surveys and posting have been completed for Sanborn Lake WMA and Rice Lake WMA.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Accomplishment Reports and press releases will be made available at the Habitat Conservation Partnership website <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org> and the LCCMR website. Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted as required. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted as requested by the LCCMR staff.

Status as of (May 24, 2012): N/A.

Status as of (November 28, 2012): No activity to date.

Status as of (May 20, 2013): No activity to date.

Status as of (November, 2013): No activity to date.

Final Report Summary: Outcomes from this HCP project (2g) will directly benefit public use of three newly acquired WMA properties. Safe and clearly signed WMA properties are a visible indicator of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund accomplishments on the landscape.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 15,000	DNR engineering services, land surveys, historical/cultural review contracts.
Service Contracts	\$ 15,000	Land management service contracts for labor, spraying, vegetation management.
Other:		
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 30,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: No full-time permanent classified DNR staff will be paid from this budget.

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
230 – Game & Fish Funds	\$ 5,000	\$ 5000	Personnel, existing equipment, and supplies.
230 – Game & Fish Funds	\$ 378	\$ 378	Shared Services (operations support governance) are services that DNR relies on in order to conduct business and support the work of the department. These services are more efficient when shared.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 5,378	\$ 5,378	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) is a partner in the nonprofit organization of Habitat Conservation Partnership. The mission of Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations.

Member Organizations include: Ducks Unlimited * Fond du Lac Reservation * Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe * Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources * Minnesota Deer Hunters Association * Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Land Trust * Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. * National Wild Turkey Federation * Pheasants Forever * Red Lake Band of Chippewa * The Nature Conservancy * Trust for Public Land * U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service * U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

State the dollar amount each partner will receive from the appropriation (the following partners are receiving funds from this appropriation):

Organization	Appropriation Amount
Pheasants Forever – HCP Coordination	\$55,000
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$50,000
DNR – 2g-HCP7	\$30,000
DNR - 2h-HCP7	\$200,000
Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Mgmt Div	\$75,000
MN Land Trust	\$450,000
Ducks Unlimited – Shallow Lakes	\$500,000
Ducks Unlimited – WRP	\$775,000
Pheasants Forever – Acquisition	\$430,000
The Trust For Public Land	\$490,000
MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc.	\$400,000
DNR – 4i-HCP7	\$20,000

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is needed as long as the partnership exists and lands are being acquired by the partners that will be transferred to the DNR as part of the WMA system. The DNR needs to budget the amount necessary to manage, restore and maintain these newly acquired units.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$28,751	\$47,185	\$29,102	\$50,000	

(add or remove rows and columns as needed)

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

Please refer to the DNR’s Biennial Acquisition Plans available on the DNR website. New acquisitions must be approved by the DNR before accepted from the partner organization. DNR cannot start work until the Partners have completed acquisition and transferred legal ownership of new parcels. DNR and Partners have estimated that 200 acres will be acquired and transferred to state ownership, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. The work completed under this proposal is dependent on the acres, types, and condition of lands acquired by the partners.

IX. MAP(S):

The project focuses programs and resources on identified project focus areas that have high potential for restoring and enhancing functional habitats benefiting Minnesota. *See attached Map titled, “Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed phase VII Project Areas.*

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted twice each year or not later than May 2012, November 2012, May 2013, and November 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: 2g - HCP 7 - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2g								
Project Manager: Jami Markle								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$30,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014								
Date of Final Report: Dec. 5, 2013								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 revised as of 12-14-2012	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 revised as of 12-14-2012	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM								
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Temporary or intermittent staff for initial site facility development and habitat restoration work.</i>			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
Professional/Technical Contracts <i>DNR engineering services, land surveys, historical/cultural review contracts.</i>			\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,908.00	\$ 92.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 92.00
Service contracts <i>Land management service contracts for labor, spraying, vegetation management.</i>	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>For initial facility development and restoration of acquired acres using DNR equipment such as drills, seeders, and hand tools. Supplies include gravel for parking lots, posts, signs and seed.</i>			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Fleet costs for vehicles and equipment.</i>			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$14,908	\$92	\$30,000	\$92

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - DNR Fisheries (2h)

PROJECT MANAGER: Linda Erickson-Eastwood

AFFILIATION: MN DNR

MAILING ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Road

CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55155-4020

PHONE:651-259-5206

E-MAIL:linda.erickson-eastwood@state.mn.us

WEBSITE: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2h

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$200,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Efforts completed under this project consisted of improving water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by installing aeration systems in two waterbodies (Loon and Swansen Lakes in Waseca and Kandiyohi cos), creating and restoring a wetland (Horseshoe Lake in LeSueur Co.), stream improvement to reduce erosion (Hawk Creek in Kandiyohi Co.), and putting in a carp barrier (Diamond/Hubbard Lake in Kandiyohi Co). A total of 2,521 acres or 21 miles of shoreline were modified during this phase to create better fishing. Citizens of the state of Minnesota benefit from these projects by having a better fish community structure that is sustainable by natural reproduction. This then creates better fishing and recreation available in high priority waterbodies in the SW portion of the state. All of the projects were completed by June 30, 2014.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

As projects were completed the Department had press releases that were sent out to the local media. We also had an open house/tour for the local public who wished to visit those projects.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Main Document**

Date of Status Update: Final Report
Date of Next Status Update: Project Completed
Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request? _No**

Project Title: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - DNR Fisheries (2h)

Project Manager: Linda Erickson-Eastwood
Affiliation: MN DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20
City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5206
Email Address: linda.erickson-eastwood@state.mn.us
Web Address: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	200,000
	Amount Spent \$:	200,000
	Balance \$:	0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2h

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established,

including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: : HCP7-2h Restoration & Management–DNR Fisheries

II. PROJECT SUMMARY: This project will include administering and managing aquatic restoration and habitat improvement work that will be done on public areas and provide technical advice for private land work. Lake management plans and project proposals are drafted for each water body that direct the work that is needed to be done at that site. Existing sites will be assessed by area fisheries staff. The results of this review will be prioritized by regional and central office staff and will be looked at in reference to the work that is being done by others in the HCP Partnership. Once this prioritized list of projects is completed, then area staff will implement the needed actions through contracts and use of temporary staff as needed. There will be up to 3.5 miles or 35 acres of rivers, streams, or lakes benefited from this proposal. Through these combined efforts we are improving and protecting habitat for aquatic species in our lakes, streams, and their surrounding sensitive shorelands more effectively and efficiently than would otherwise be possible.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of December 2011: Nothing to report

Project Status as of June 2012: A number of projects were completed and funded with other funds due to issues with loading budgets using the new accounting system SWIFT. We have two projects that are currently in the design stage or just about to be bid: two aeration systems for Swenson Lake (Kandiyohi Co) and the Lake Washington (LeSuer Co) culvert modification. We also have joined forces with the Section of Wildlife to help fund the Diamond/Hubbard Lake (Kandiyohi Co.) barrier. The barrier project is currently being designed/bid and will be implemented this summer.

Project Status as of December 2012: A number of projects were completed and funded with other funds due to issues with loading budgets using the new accounting system SWIFT.

- The two aeration systems for Swenson Lake have been purchased and will be installed on Swenson Lake during the winter of 2012-13. The aeration units will affect 109 acres of water.
- During the engineering phase of the Lake Washington (LeSuer Co) culvert modification, it was determined this project was on private land and could not be funded with these funds.
- Horseshoe Lake AMA in LeSuer County (Habitat Corridor #10) was added when the Lake Washington project was discontinued. We are presently doing a Joint Powers Agreement between the State and the South Central Technical Service Area for the engineering portion of the wetland restoration project. The project will restore approximately 2.5 acres of wetlands on the 85 acre AMA. The entire project will be completed by July 1, 2013.
- Construction of the Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier (Kandiyohi County) is substantially complete. The innovative design of this structure utilizes perforated aluminum pipes and a rip-rap mound that serve as a barrier for carp passage from Diamond Lake into Hubbard Lake and the rest of the shallow lakes in the chain. It is anticipated that this structural barrier coupled with periodic winter kills of carp in these shallow lakes will enhance aquatic vegetation, water quality, and wildlife habitat conditions. The watershed area affected by this barrier is approximately 13.6 acres. The barrier will provide protection to approximately 450 acres of water.

Project Status as of June 2013: A number of projects were completed, dropped, out for bid, or funded with other funds.

- Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier (Kandiyohi County) was completed.
- Lake Washington Culvert Project was discontinued.
- Horseshoe Lake AMA, Loon Lake Aeration, and Hawk Creek Corridor projects are being bid.
- Waterville AMA Invasive Control was funded from another source so no longer on the LCCMR list

Project Status as of December 2013:

- Horseshoe Lake AMA was seeded in November of 2013
- Loon Lake Aeration project was completed.
- Hawk Creek Corridor Project is in progress.

- Waterville AMA Invasive Control was funded from another source

Project Status as of June 30, 2014:

- Horseshoe Lake AMA was completed in December 2013.
- Hawk Creek Corridor Project was completed in June 2014.

Final Report Summary –

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Efforts completed under this project consisted of improving water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by installing aeration systems in two waterbodies (Loon and Swansen Lakes in Waseca and Kandiyohi cos), creating and restoring a wetland (Horseshoe Lake in LeSueur Co.), stream improvement to reduce erosion (Hawk Creek in Kandiyohi Co.), and putting in a carp barrier (Diamond/Hubbard Lake in Kandiyohi Co). A total of 2,521 acres or 21 miles of shoreline were modified during this phase to create better fishing. Citizens of the state of Minnesota benefit from these projects by having a better fish community structure that is sustainable by natural reproduction. This then creates better fishing and recreation available in high priority waterbodies in the SW portion of the state. All of the projects were completed by June 30, 2014.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

As projects were completed the Department had press releases that were sent out to the local media. We also had an open house/tour for the local public who wished to visit those projects.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restoration

Description: Aquatic habitat work may include but is not limited to invasive control to restore or reestablish habitats impacted by them, stream channel restorations, installation of aeration systems, spawning area development, dam modifications, bank stabilization, plantings of native vegetation, fish barrier installation projects that occur adjacent to or in lakes and streams, and erosion control, and culvert improvements for fish passage. Also included will be monies to pay for surveys, engineering design, and legal assistance. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement aquatic habitat improvements. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 200,000
Amount Spent: \$ 200,000
Balance: \$ 0

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 3.5 miles or 35 acres of waterbodies benefited from habitat work such as the following projects	June 2013	\$200,000.00
1. Crocker Creek near Faribault Shoreland Habitat --- done already with other funds	NA	\$0.00
2. Swenson Lake Aeration Kandiyohi County --- 2 -- \$15,713	Sept 2012	\$15,713.00
3. Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier Kandiyohi County -- \$72,000	Nov 2012	\$65,973.40
4. Wakanda Lake Shoreland Habitat Kandiyohi County --- done with other funds	NA	\$0.00
5. Eagle Lake Shoreland Habitat Otter Tail County --- done already with other funds	NA	\$0.00
6. Hattie Lake Aeration – Stevens Coty --- done with other funds	NA	\$0.00
7. Lake Washington Culvert LeSueur Co. --- \$50,000		\$0.00
8. Technical Assistance on aquatic habitat work	Ongoing	\$0.00
9. Horseshoe Lake AMA, LeSueur Co. -- \$82,000	Nov 2013	\$65,589.00
10. Waterville AMA Invasive control--- done with other funds	NA	\$0.00
11. Loon Lake aeration – Waterville	July 2013	\$9,990
12. Hawk Creek Corridor – Kandiyohi Co - Spicer	June 2014	\$63,499

Activity Status as of December 2011: Nothing to report

Activity Status as of June 2012:

1. Crocker Creek Shoreland Habitat (near Faribault) --- Completed fall of 2011 with other funds. Professional services costs covered by this funding.
2. Swenson Lake Aeration (Kandiyohi County) --- Two aeration units have been purchased and will be installed this summer -- \$14,748.75
3. Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier (Kandiyohi County) – Working with partners to finish the design and get bids. Anticipate starting construction this summer at a cost of \$72,000.
4. Wakanda Lake Shoreland Habitat (Kandiyohi County) --- Completed spring of 2011 with other funds. Professional services costs covered by this funding
5. Eagle Lake Shoreland Habitat (Otter Tail County) --- Completed spring of 2011 with other funds. Professional services costs covered by this funding
6. Hattie Lake Aeration (Stevens County) --- Purchased prior to getting these funds, so no longer part of the project.
7. Lake Washington Culvert (LeSuer County) --- Have requested design work and will bid this summer. Installation to occur this fall or winter. Anticipated costs of \$50,000 as our share to do the work. Additional costs and continued maintenance to be done by partners.
8. Technical Assistance on aquatic habitat work --- Nothing to report at this time.
9. Professional Services have been made in the amount of \$5,000 to date.

Activity Status as of December 2012:

2. Swenson Lake Aeration --- Aeration systems were purchased and will be installed this winter.
3. Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier (Kandiyohi County) – Work on this construction project is complete. Total contract cost was \$65,973. Total cost to date for DNR engineering professional services during the construction phase was \$4,251. Due to a delay in invoicing, there will be one additional invoice from DNR engineering in January 2013. Anticipated final project cost is \$72,000.
7. Lake Washington Culvert --- Staff worked with the landowners and county to try and secure the land in public ownership. After a lot of discussions, it was determined that the project was not going to be able to go forward since the land was going to stay in private ownership. The resources are now being used to move the Horseshoe Lake AMA wetland restoration project forward.
10. Horseshoe Lake AMA -- Horseshoe Lake AMA is in the LCCMR Habitat Corridor #10. A Joint Powers Agreement is being drawn up to have the South Central Technical Service Area finish the engineering on the project. Bids should go out in late December and awarded in January. The project will be completed by June 30, 2013.

Activity Status as of May 2013:

2. Swenson Lake Aeration --- Aeration systems were purchased and will be installed this winter.
3. Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier (Kandiyohi County) – Work on this construction project is complete. Total contract cost was \$65,973. Total cost to date for DNR engineering professional services during the construction phase was \$4,251. Due to a delay in invoicing, there will be one additional invoice from DNR engineering in January 2013. Anticipated final project cost is \$72,000.
7. Lake Washington Culvert --- Staff worked with the landowners and county to try and secure the land in public ownership. After a lot of discussions, it was determined that the project was not going to be able to go forward since the land was going to stay in private ownership. The resources are now being used to move the Horseshoe Lake AMA wetland restoration project forward.
9. Horseshoe Lake AMA -- Horseshoe Lake AMA is in the LCCMR Habitat Corridor #10. The South Central Technical Service Area finished the engineering plans and the bids should be awarded by mid-May and the final project should be completed by June 30, 2013.

- 10. Waterville AMA Invasive Control – Project was funded from another source so no longer on the LCCMR list
- 11. Loon Lake Aeration – Business office has sent out the project for bids. Project should be completed by June 30,2013.
- 12. Hawk Creek Corridor – In the process of obtaining bids. Should be done by June 30, 2013.

Activity Status as of December 2013:

9. Horseshoe Lake AMA -- Horseshoe Lake AMA is in the LCCMR Habitat Corridor #10. The South Central Technical Service Area finished the engineering plans and the bid was awarded. The primary construction was finished by July, 2013 and the dormant seeding was completed in November, 2013. Final payment should be made by January, 2013.

- 11. Loon Lake Aeration – Project was completed by July 30, 2013.
- 12. Hawk Creek Corridor – In the process of obtaining bids. Project will be completed by June, 2014.

8/1/2014 - Amendment Request - This is a request to retroactively approve shifting of funds between categories to reflect how funds were spent.

Amendment Approved retroactively by LCCMR 8-25-2014

Final Report Summary:

Citizens of the state of Minnesota benefit from these projects by having a better fish community structure that is sustainable by natural reproduction. This then creates better fishing and recreation available in high priority waterbodies in the SW portion of the state. All of the projects were completed by June 30, 2014. The projects consisted of improving water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by installing aeration systems in two waterbodies (Loon and Swansen Lakes in Waseca and Kandiyohi cos), create and restore a wetland (Horseshoe Lake in LeSueur Co.), stream improvement to reduce erosion (Hawk Creek in Kandiyohi Co.), and put in a carp barrier (Diamond/Hubbard Lake in Kandiyohi Co). A total of 2,521 acres or 21 miles of shoreline were modified during this phase to create better fishing. See details in table below.

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]	Latitude										
	Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier Kandiyohi County	45° 10' 18.1"N	94° 49' 17.1"E	\$ 65,973	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Improve water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by preventing carp from entering wetland complex which drains into Public Fishing Lake	Install Fish Barrier	2,200	17	Private	DNR Fisheries Fish Trap Easement	Completed 12/4/12
	Swenson Lake Aeration Kandiyohi County	45° 16' 17.7"N	95° 8' 10.2"E	\$ 15,713	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Prevent Winterkill in Public Fishing Lake	Install Surface Aerators	109	2	Public	NA	Completed 6/24/12
	Hawk Creek Headwaters Project	45° 10' 18"N	95° 0' 42.7"E	\$ 63,499	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Reduce erosion, enhance stream channel formation, improve habitat	Stream Restoration	2	0.6	Public	DNR Waters Dam/Fisheries Fish Trap Easement	Completed by 6/30/14
2	Horseshoe Lake AMA	44° 15' 47.1" N	93° 32' 31.6" E	\$ 64,589	\$ 7,275	LeSueur	Wetland Creations/Restoration	Wetland Creation/Restoration	85.2	1	AMA		Completed 12/30/13
	Loon Lake Aeration	44° 4' 52.9" N	93° 31' 6.0" E	\$ 9,990	\$ -	Waseca	Sustainable Urban Fishery	Aeration	125	N/A	City of Waseca		Completed 6/7/13

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Accomplishment Reports and press releases will be made available at <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>

Status as of June 2012: Nothing done at this time.

Status as of June 2013: Those projects that were completed had press releases that were sent out to the local media. We also had an open house/tour for the local public who wished to visit those projects that have been completed.

Status as of December 2013: Nothing to report

Final Report Summary:

Citizens of the state of Minnesota benefit from these projects by having a better fish community structure that is sustainable by natural reproduction. This then creates better fishing and recreation available in high priority waterbodies in the SW portion of the state. All of the projects were completed by June 30, 2014. The projects consisted of improving water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by installing aeration systems in two waterbodies (Loon and Swansen Lakes), create and restore a wetland (Horseshoe Lake), stream improvement to reduce erosion (Hawk Creek), and put in a carp barrier (Diamond/Hubbard Lake). A total of 2,521 acres or 21 miles of shoreline were modified during this phase.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 0	Two student workers to work each summer and contract the DNR Construction crew and SE Habitat crews as needed ---- Change: We did not use any outside staff paid from these funds to do this work. Moved to actual implementation of projects.
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$6,975	Historical/cultural review contract with Historical Society, engineering, design work ---- Change: Did not require as much PT so moved \$13,025 to implementation of projects
Service Contracts	\$163,425	Private contractors as per state bid process --- \$20,000 moved from personnel to this category. Moved \$13,025 from PT to this category. Moved \$400 from PS to this category. Moved \$2,000 from travel to this category
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$20,000	For materials like rocks and plants, fleet, and equipment rentals. Also up to two aeration systems
Professional Services for Habitat Work:	\$9,600	Engineering, designs, boundary work, AG office Change: Did not need as much PS so moved \$400 to implementation of projects.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$0	Change: Did not use these funds for this cost, so moved them to implementation of projects.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$200,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Seasonal DNR construction crew and SE Habitat crews are called back annually if specific project funding is available. The work they would do if used on these projects would be development of project specifications for bid packages, oversee engineering designs, heavy equipment operator work, approval of contracted work, and maintenance reviews.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1.25 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
	\$10,000	\$0	Shared services
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Minnesota DNR Division of Fisheries and Wildlife staff – Site identification and evaluation, project prioritization, project design and oversight and some project implementation.

HCP Partners working in the same area to coordinate efforts

Local lake associations, lake improvement districts and sportsman’s groups – Design assistance, labor and equipment, electricity costs, and leases.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project will help protect and upgrade habitat improvement on disturbed water bodies and will look at ways to partner with others local units of government to address watershed issues that are beyond the scope of the Department. It will also provide increased fishing opportunities and improved water quality to support game fish populations and other wildlife. It is important to the economy and way of life in Minnesota to ensure that the Department can continue to provide quality fishing and fishing opportunities around the state. In the future additional funds will be needed to continue to maintain and upgrade these important habitat resources. Sources of funding beyond LCCMR will be looked at including license fees, stamp fees, Midwest Glacial lakes Partnership, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, LCCMR, and LSOHC funds.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ETF	200,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	100,000
Trout Stamp	261,000	150,000	207,000	107,000	
Game and Fish	300,000	394,000	250,000	200,000	

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: see above and as separate file

IX. MAP(S): see attached separate file

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than December 30, 2011, June 30, 2012, December 30, 2012, June 30, 2013, and December 30, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-14) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects			
Project Title: HCP7-2h Restoration & Management–DNR Fisheries			
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2h			
Project Manager: Linda Erickson-Eastwood			
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-14) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 200,000			
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014			
Date of Update: August 1, 2014			
This update reflects a retroactive request to move monies between categories to reflect how it was spent.			
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Restoration</i>		
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)			
Position/Position Type 1 Two student workers to work each summer (unclassified) No benefits	0		0
Position/Position Type 2 DNR Habitat Crews: Seasonal DNR construction crew and SE Habitat crews (classified) as needed. Total of 0.25 FTE. No benefits.	0		0
Professional/Technical Contracts Historical Society to do cultural reviews State Purchasing low bidder for design work, engineering, etc	6,975	6,975	0
Service contracts State Purchasing low bidder for specific work to install habitat projects	163,425	163,425	0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies Two aeration systems Rock or other materials Plants	20,000	20,000	0
Capital equipment over \$3,500 <i>(List specific items. Add rows as needed.)</i>			
Fee Title Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition			
Professional Services for Habitat Work	9,600	9,600	0
Printing			
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Mileage, lodging, meals as per state contract language.</i>			0
Other <i>(Describe the activity and cost - be specific)</i>			
COLUMN TOTAL	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill in "Project Title", "Project Manager Name", and "M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation" below.
2. For each individual acquisition or restoration parcel that is being considered as possible/proposed under this appropriation, please indicate a parcel name, geographic coordinates, estimated cost, estimated annual PILT liabilities, ecological significance, activity description, # of acres, # of shoreline miles (if applicable), proposed final holder of any fee title or conservation easement, and status. One row per individual land parcel. Add or delete rows as necessary.
3. Use the "Notes" section at the bottom of the page to provide any additional information pertaining to the acquisition list. If there is any requested information you are unable to provide for any of the parcels, please provide an explanation here.
4. Delete this row containing these instructions and any unused rows before submission.

Columns

#: Number each parcel 1 through the total number of parcels.

Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name: Provide a working title or name used to identify each parcel/restoration area.

Geographic Coordinates: Provide latitude and longitude coordinates for the location of the parcel - preferably the center of the parcel (centroid). Provide latitude and longitude coordinates for the location of the parcel - preferably the center of the parcel (centroid). Coordinates should be in the format: [Degrees]° [Minutes]' [Seconds]" [Hemisphere].

Estimated Cost: Provide an estimated cost for the parcel.

Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities: If an acquisition will result in payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) liabilities for the state to a local government, provide an estimated annual cost of those liabilities. Otherwise indicate "N/A".

County: County in which the parcel is located.

Ecological Significance: Indicate the type of ecosystem that exists on a parcel (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) and provide a description of the ecological significance particular to the parcel.

Activity Description: Provide a description of the activity or activities to occur on the parcel (e.g., fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, removal of woody vegetation). For conservation easements indicate whether the easement would be donated or purchased.

of Acres: Indicate the size of the parcel to be acquired or restored in acres.

of Shoreline Miles (if applicable): If applicable, indicate the number of shoreline miles being impacted.

Type of Landowner: Indicate the type of current landowner (e.g., private individual/trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)

Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable): For land acquisition, indicate the organization or entity that will hold title of lands once acquired.

Status: Indicate the status of the parcel (e.g., engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway). Update the status as it changes over the course of the appropriation.

Project Title: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - DNR Fisheries (2h)

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2h

Project Manager: Linda Erickson-Eastwood

Organization: MN DNR

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 200,000

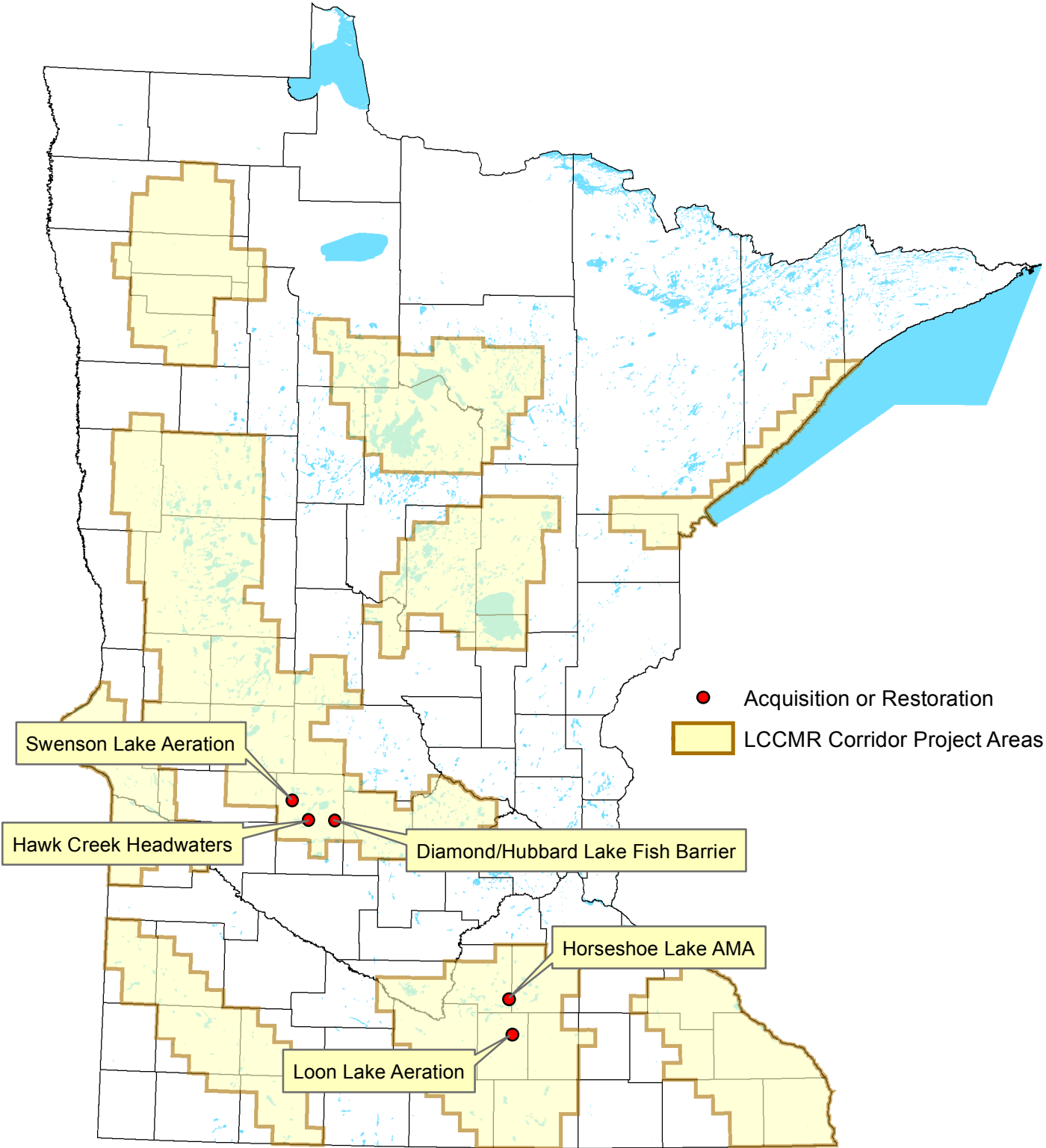
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2014

Date of Report: August 2014

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier Kandiyohi County	45° 10' 18.1"N	94° 49' 17.1"E	\$ 65,973	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Improve water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by preventing carp from entering wetland complex which drains into Public Fishing Lake	Install Fish Barrier	2,200	17	Private	DNR Fisheries Fish Trap Easement	Completed 12/4/12
2	Swenson Lake Aeration Kandiyohi County	45° 16' 17.7"N	95° 8' 10.2"E	\$ 15,713	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Prevent Winterkill in Public Fishing Lake	Install Surface Aerators	109	2	Public	NA	Completed 6/24/12
3	Hawk Creek Headwaters Project	45° 10' 18"N	95° 0' 42.7"E	\$ 63,499	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Reduce erosion, enhance stream channel formation, improve habitat	Stream Restoration	2	0.6	Public	DNR Waters Dam/Fisheries Fish Trap Easement	Completed by 6/30/14
4	Horshoe Lake AMA	44° 15' 47.1"N	93° 32' 31.6"E	\$ 64,589	\$ 7,275	LeSueur	Wetland Creations/Restoration	Wetland Creation/Restoration	85.2	1	AMA		Completed 12/30/13
5	Loon Lake Aeration	44° 4' 52.9"N	93° 31' 6.0"E	\$ 9,990	\$ -	Waseca	Sustainable Urban Fishery	Aeration	125	N/A	City of Waseca		Completed 6/7/13
6	Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier Kandiyohi County	45° 10' 18.1"N	94° 49' 17.1"E	\$ 65,973	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Improve water quality and fish/wildlife habitat by preventing carp from entering wetland complex which drains into Public Fishing Lake	Install Fish Barrier	2,200	17	Private	DNR Fisheries Fish Trap Easement	Completed 12/4/12
7	Swenson Lake Aeration Kandiyohi County	45° 16' 17.7"N	95° 8' 10.2"E	\$ 15,713	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Prevent Winterkill in Public Fishing Lake	Install Surface Aerators	109	2	Public	NA	Completed 6/24/12
8	Hawk Creek Headwaters Project	45° 10' 18"N	95° 0' 42.7"E	\$ 63,499	\$ -	Kandiyohi	Reduce erosion, enhance stream channel formation, improve habitat	Stream Restoration	2	0.6	Public	DNR Waters Dam/Fisheries Fish Trap Easement	Completed by 6/30/14
9	Horshoe Lake AMA	44° 15' 47.1"N	93° 32' 31.6"E	\$ 64,589	\$ 7,275	LeSueur	Wetland Creations/Restoration	Wetland Creation/Restoration	85.2	1	AMA		Completed 12/30/13
10	Loon Lake Aeration	44° 4' 52.9"N	93° 31' 6.0"E	\$ 9,990	\$ -	Waseca	Sustainable Urban Fishery	Aeration	125	N/A	City of Waseca		Completed 6/7/13

NOTES:

LCCMR Phase 7 Acquisitions or Restorations



2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP Phase VII - Wetland Restoration in Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (2o)

Project Manager: Paul Guck
Affiliation: Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District
Mailing Address: 26624 N Tower Road
City / State / Zip: Detroit Lakes MN 56501
Telephone Number: 218-847-4431 (office)
E-mail Address: paulguck@arvig.net
Fax Number: 218-847-4156
Web Site Address:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2o

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF
Appropriation	\$ 75,000.00
Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 74,958.62
Final Balance:	\$ 41.38

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project restored 31 wetlands on Lake Park Waterfowl Production Area in Becker County, Minnesota, ranging in size from 0.1 to 0.7 acres. A total of 6 acres of wetlands were restored. In the fall of 2012, the wetlands were restored by Subsurface, a local contractor. Any ditches leading from the wetlands were completely filled and any remaining fill was spread on the surrounding uplands in an effort to mimic the original topography of the site. Volunteers and Friends members hand harvested wildflower seed from nearby WPAs. USFWS staff, working with local contractors, harvested an additional 16,000 pounds of seed, also from native prairies in the area. USFWS staff seeded the bare dirt at these sites in March of 2013.

While these acres seem small, these small, Type I wetlands are the most impacted in western Minnesota's agricultural landscape. They are important for wildlife for two reasons. These small wetlands tend to melt before larger wetlands and lakes in the spring, providing habitat for the earliest arriving wetland dependent species. Second, many studies have shown that these small wetlands have some of the highest densities of invertebrates in the water. These inverts are a critical resource, especially because of their high protein content, for females trying to lay eggs early in the growing season.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Final Habitat work from this grant will be publicized through the USFWS' Field Notes Website and its Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2011 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: 30 November 2012

Final Report

Date of Work Program Approval: 06/23/2011

Project Completion Date: 06/30/2014

**I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP Phase VII - Wetland Restoration in Detroit Lakes
Wetland Management District (2o)**

Project Manager: Paul Guck
Affiliation: Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District
Mailing Address: 26624 N Tower Road
City / State / Zip: Detroit Lakes MN 56501
Telephone Number: 218-847-4431 (office)
E-mail Address: paulguck@arvig.net
Fax Number: 218-847-4156
Web Site Address:

Location:

Becker County - Lake Park WPA T139 R43 S10

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation	\$ 75,000.00
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 74,958.62
	Equal Balance:	\$ 41.38

Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2o

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently

improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

II & III. Final Project Summary:

This project restored 31 wetlands on Lake Park Waterfowl Production Area in Becker County, Minnesota, ranging in size from 0.1 to 0.7 acres. A total of 6 acres of wetlands were restored. In the fall of 2012, the wetlands were restored by Subsurface, a local contractor. Any ditches leading from the wetlands were completely filled and any remaining fill was spread on the surrounding uplands in an effort to mimic the original topography of the site. Volunteers and Friends members hand harvested wildflower seed from nearby WPAs. USFWS staff, working with local contractors, harvested an additional 16,000 pounds of seed, also from native prairies in the area. USFWS staff seeded the bare dirt at these sites in March of 2013.

While these acres seem small, these small, Type I wetlands are the most impacted in western Minnesota's agricultural landscape. They are important for wildlife for two reasons. These small wetlands tend to melt before larger wetlands and lakes in the spring, providing habitat for the earliest arriving wetland dependent species. Second, many studies have shown that these small wetlands have some of the highest densities of invertebrates in the water. These inverts are a critical resource, especially because of their high protein content, for females trying to lay eggs early in the growing season.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Final Habitat work from this grant will be publicized through the USFWS' Field Notes Website and its Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

This program emphasizes restoring habitats for fish and wildlife in concert with the goals of the working lands initiative as prescribed by HAPET models. These projects benefit both Minnesota sportsmen and the general public by providing habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, improving water quality and watershed health, storm water storage and

reduced downstream flooding, reducing non-point source pollution, and creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and education.

RESULT/ACTIVITY 1: Wetland Restoration

Description: Contactors were selected through the Federal government’s IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity) process. Although bids will be put out for everyone, there are contractors in the area that the FWS has worked with in the past and that have experience with wetland restoration on FWS property. The contractor will not itemize each step (remove silt, deposit and spread silt) but will provide billing per wetland by the hours of machine time needed to complete the work. USFWS personnel will do the reseeding using local ecotype seed collected on nearby native prairies.

Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 75,000.00
Amount Spent: \$ 74,958.62
Balance: \$ 41.38

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. remove silt from wetlands and fill ditches (contractors)	11/1/2012	\$ 75,000

Final Report Summary: 1 Nov 2012: 31 wetlands were restored on Lake Park Waterfowl Production Area ranging in size from 0.1 to 0.7 acres. A total of 6 acres of wetlands were restored.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Service Contracts	\$ 75,000	We will hired local contractors to restore wetlands. USFWS identified and flagged the wetlands, the contractor removed the accumulated silt, filled in any ditches, and spread the silt on adjacent uplands to restore the original topography.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 75,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: We estimate that this project will require approximately four people working full-time for a month. This should be equivalent to approximately 1/3 of an annual FTE.

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
USFWS – In Kind	\$	\$	Staff will identify wetlands, flag wetlands for contractors, and plant with local ecotype seed once the contractors are done at the site.
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The USFWS and the Friends group will continue to work with other USFWS offices in the region, the MN DNR, and NGOs such as the MN Prairie Chicken Society, MN Waterfowl Association (MWA), Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever to protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat across the prairie pothole region of northwestern Minnesota.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The impact of this project will be to create additional habitat for wetland dependent wildlife such as waterfowl, marshbirds, passerines, and furbearers. The long-term strategy for managing these lands will be through the on-going fire and weed control control efforts currently conducted by FWS staff at the DLWMD office.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
OHC – CPL grant (Friends)			27000		
OHC – CPL grant (MWA)			97500		
NAWCA (Friends)		40095	75000		
LCCMR		20000	50000	45000	

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Periodic progress reports, project completion reports, and pertinent GIS data will be shared with other state and federal resource management agencies, state colleges and universities, and made available to the State Electronic Library and other information depositories as part of overall project implementation. Pertinent information will also be provided to the overall project website as it is developed. In addition, work program progress will be publicized through the USFWS' Accomplishment Reporting System and its Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than 1 May and 1 Nov. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

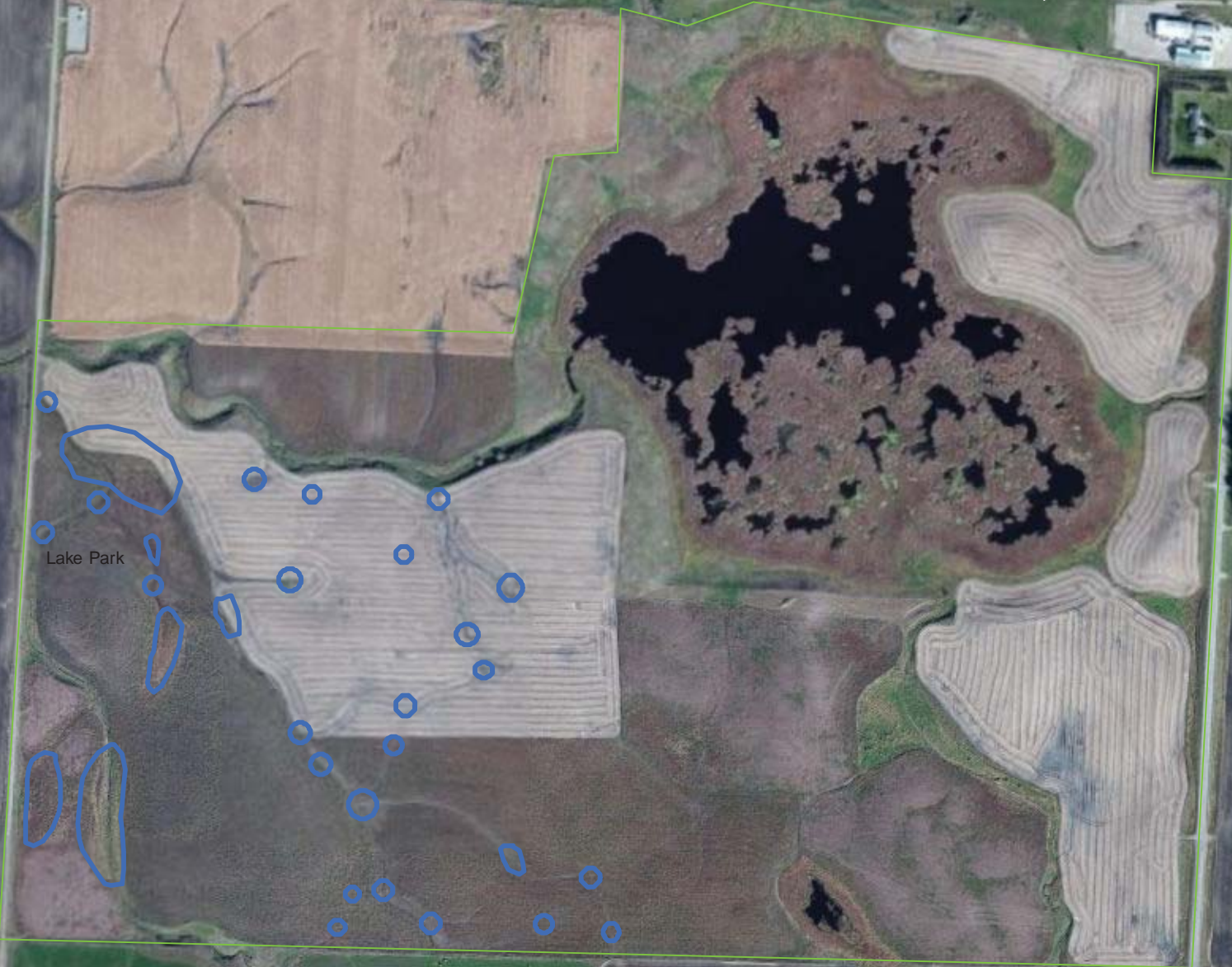
Attachment A: Final Budget Detail for 2011 Project (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Areas (2o)					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chap. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 4j2o					
Project Manager: Paul Guck					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 75,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: July 2013					
Date of Update: Nov 30, 2012 (Final)					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Wetland Restorations</i>				
Service contracts We will use the Federal bid process (IDIQ Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity). Contractors will remove sediment from the wetlands, fill adjoining ditches, and spread remaining sediment on the uplands.	75,000.00		41.28	75,000.00	41.28
		74,958.62			
COLUMN TOTAL	75,000.00	74,958.62	41.28	75,000.00	41.28

**Lake Park WPA Completed
Wetland Restoration Sites
Becker County, MN
T139N, R43W, Sect. 10**

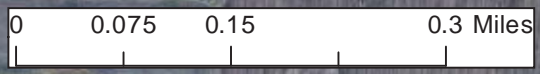


US Hwy 10

Lake Park, MN



Lake Park







2011 Final Report Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

TITLE: Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) – Phase VII
Shoreland Protection Program – 3A

PROJECT MANAGER: John Brosnan

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust

ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-647-9590

EMAIL: jbroshnan@mnland.org

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.mnland.org

FUND: Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3a

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$450,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

In the seventh phase of our Shorelands Protection project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on quality habitat along or containing critical riparian lands. We initiated or continued contact with more than 30 landowners and completed eight conservation easements. Collectively, these easements preserve approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protect nearly 34,172 linear feet of fragile shoreline. Highlights from the eight completed projects include:

- One donated easement over 30 acres in Kandiyohi County that protected over 2,600 feet of natural shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River.
- A complex of five easements surrounding five lakes in Becker County that protected approximately 474 acres and over 3 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Four of the five easements were donated to the Land Trust.
- One donated easement in Otter Tail County that protected 48 acres and over 2,900 feet of shoreline along Blanche Lake, immediately adjacent to Glendalough State Park.
- Another donated easement that protected 145 acres of forest and wetlands in Beltrami County and preserved almost two miles of shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake.

Overall, this phase of the grant program protected 269 acres of forest, 183 acres of wetlands, and over 6 miles of undeveloped shoreline.

All eight projects met the following selection criteria:

1. Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protects riparian areas and buffers water resources
2. Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands
3. Opportunity: cost-benefit ratio: landowners willingness and readiness to participate now
4. Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

All but one of the eight easements completed under this grant were entirely donated. The value is known for only two of the donated easements, which together total \$204,000 in appraised donated value under this grant. The Land Trust purchased one of the Fischer Lakes easements for the appraised value of \$170,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete the eight projects completed under this phase of the grant was just under \$600 per acre.

Cumulatively, across all phases of the HCP program, the Land Trust has completed 89 conservation easements, protecting 8,245 acres of critical habitat and more than 258,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of approximately \$320 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources along Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land along our increasingly threatened shorelines. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase of the grant indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Status Update: 8/1/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** N

Project Title: HCP VII - Shoreland Protection Program (3a)

Project Manager: John Brosnan
Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust
Address: 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240
City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55114
Telephone Number: (651) 647-9590
Email Address: jbrotsnan@mnland.org
Web Address: http://www.mnland.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	450,000
	Amount Spent \$:	419,115
	Balance \$:	30,845

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3a

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

In the seventh phase of our Shorelands Protection project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on quality habitat along or containing critical riparian lands. We initiated or continued contact with more than 30 landowners and completed eight conservation easements. Collectively, these easements preserve approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protect nearly 34,172 linear feet of fragile shoreline. Highlights from the eight completed projects include:

- One donated easement over 30 acres in Kandiyohi County that protected over 2,600 feet of natural shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River.
- A complex of five easements surrounding five lakes in Becker County that protected approximately 474 acres and over 3 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Four of the five easements were donated to the Land Trust.
- One donated easement in Otter Tail County that protected 48 acres and over 2,900 feet of shoreline along Blanche Lake, immediately adjacent to Glendalough State Park.
- Another donated easement that protected 145 acres of forest and wetlands in Beltrami County and preserved almost two miles of shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake.

Overall, this phase of the grant program protected 269 acres of forest, 183 acres of wetlands, and over 6 miles of undeveloped shoreline.

All eight projects met the following selection criteria:

1. Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protects riparian areas and buffers water resources
2. Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands
3. Opportunity: cost-benefit ratio: landowners willingness and readiness to participate now
4. Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

All but one of the eight easements completed under this grant were entirely donated. The value is known for only two of the donated easements, which together total \$204,000 in appraised donated value under this grant. The Land Trust purchased one of the Fischer Lakes easements for the appraised value of \$170,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete the eight projects completed under this phase of the grant was just under \$600 per acre.

Cumulatively, across all phases of the HCP program, the Land Trust has completed 89 conservation easements, protecting 8,245 acres of critical habitat and more than 258,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of approximately \$320 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources along Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land along our increasingly threatened shorelines. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase

of the grant indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of May 1, 2014:

The Land Trust continues to work on two final projects along Black Lake that we anticipate will close under this grant. These two donated projects will protect approximately 536 acres and 8,100 feet of shoreline along Black Lake and 7,100 feet of shoreline along Three Island Lake.

Project Status as of November 1, 2013:

In October 2013, we acquired conservation easements on five Fischer Lakes properties which total 473 acres and 28,233 feet of shoreline and are described in greater detail below. To date, this grant has delivered 7 conservation easements on 552 acres and 33,824 feet of shoreline.

Before the grant ends, we anticipate closing on two Black Lake properties which could bring an additional 450+ acres to the total and an additional 16,000+ feet of shoreline.

Project Status as of May 1, 2013:

The Minnesota Land Trust completed its second project of this HCP grant on December 18, 2012. The Blanche Lake project in Otter Tail County is described in more detail below. The Land Trust continues to work on several additional projects, with particular emphasis on two sites along Black Lake in Beltrami County and five sites in the Fischer Lakes region of Becker County that include outstanding shoreland habitat and represent more than 900 acres in total.

Amendment Request (7/16/13):

We are requesting to change the Project Manager from Kris Larson to John Curry. Everything else remains the same.

Amendment Approved: 7/19/13

Amendment Request (04/09/13):

The Minnesota Land Trust would like to add 5 projects to our potential project list. These projects adjoin the Three Lakes project on the approved project list and together create a large complex of contiguous land along five lakes, locally referred to as the Fischer Lakes. The five projects are described in further detail on the attached Project Summaries document. In order to provide this complex of projects with a regionally relevant site name, we are also requesting to change the name of the Three Lakes project to Fischer Lakes.

With the addition of these five projects, the Land Trust intends to complete 5-7 additional projects to complete the 2011 HCP grant. Seven of these projects would involve donated easements, and one project would involve a purchase which will require use of 2011 funds. To complete these final projects, we are also requesting the following budget amendment:

1. Move \$36,500 from "Personnel" to "Easement Acquisition". As noted above, this adjustment is needed because we are completing one more critical project that will require additional acquisition funds.

2. Move \$3,500 from "Personnel" to "Travel Expenses." The projects we will be completed under this 2011 grant require more travel funds than we had originally anticipated.

This proposed budget change is shown on Attachment A and in Section VI. Project Budget Summary. Amendment Approved: April 15, 2013.

Project Status as of November 1, 2012:

The Land Trust continues to work on several projects, with particular emphasis on five that we believe could potentially close under this grant. Additionally, as indicated by the ~~and underline~~ above and on the Work Plan attachments, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change the project manager due to a staff transition. Finally, the reporting schedule under the Reporting Requirements section was amended to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014. Amendment approved November 13, 2012.

Project Status as of August 23, 2012:

The Minnesota Land Trust would like to add two projects to our potential project list. Both projects are described in further detail on the attached Project Summaries document. Amendment approved September 6, 2012.

Project Status as of May 1, 2012:

The Minnesota Land Trust completed its first project of this HCP grant on December 29, 2011. The Crow River project in Kandiyohi County is described in more detail below. The Land Trust continues to work with additional landowners and anticipates the closing of its second project under this grant phase (Black Lake) by the end of June. Additionally, we have identified five new potential projects. These projects are shown on the attached revised potential acquisition list.

Project Status as of November 1, 2011:

The Land Trust began work on this phase of the grant in August 2011. We continue to work on a number of projects on the project list. We anticipate closing the Crow River project by the end of 2011. Also we have identified one additional potential project and therefore have updated the attached acquisition list and project summary document. We also removed one project from the list that we determined not to be a good fit for this grant.

Project Status as of August 2011 and Request to Work on Grants Concurrently

In June 2011, the Land Trust completed one (Lake Superior) of the two projects described and approved in our 2010 Work Program that will complete the 2010 HCP grant. The Land Trust anticipates that the second project (Little Pine River) will close within the next month, and completion of this project will use remaining 2010 funds. At the same time, we have a number of projects on our 2011 Potential Project list that are ready to move forward. Therefore, we are requesting approval to be able to work on both the 2010 and 2011 grants concurrently. Request approved on August 19, 2011.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements

Description:

The Land Trust will protect critical riparian habitat within the mapped project areas by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-6 permanent conservation easements on 400-600 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and

quality of natural resources on the site. All potential easement projects are evaluated for habitat value (quality and quantity of existing habitat on site), context (proximity and relationship to other protected lands), opportunity/threat (which landowners will participate now), and other benefits (meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.). Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 450,000
Amount Spent: \$ 419,155
Balance: \$ 30,845

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 400-600 acres by completing 4-6 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2014	\$ 450,000

Final Report Summary as of June 30, 2014:

The Land Trust completed one additional easement under this grant program. The Black Lake project in Beltrami County closed in June 2014. This project protected 145 acres and approximately 10,197 feet of shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake. This project was a donated conservation easement. A long-term stewardship and monitoring plan was prepared for this project. This project is summarized in greater detail, below. One other landowner the Land Trust had been working with on Black Lake chose not to complete the conservation easement.

PROJECT: Black Lake, Beltrami County

- **Description:** 145-acre property in Beltrami County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and significant undeveloped shoreline that collectively support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property includes 10,197 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake.
- The conservation easement protects the shoreline and forest and limits development of the tract and other uses that could have detrimental impacts on water quality, the integrity of the forest community and the scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The landowner donated this conservation easement. Stewardship funding needs for perpetual monitoring and enforcement were calculated using the Land Trust’s Project Cost Analysis and those funds have been requested.

In summary, this grant allowed the Land Trust to complete eight conservation easements, protecting approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protecting nearly 34,172 linear feet (over 6 miles) of fragile shoreline. Seven of the eight easements completed were donated easements. Because most of the easements were donated, there was a significant amount of savings in the budget with respect to easement acquisition costs.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2014:

The Land Trust is working on two final projects on our potential project list which we anticipate will close under this grant. These two properties along Black Lake in Beltrami County total 536 acres and contain 8,100 feet of shoreline along Black Lake and 7,100 feet of shoreline along Three Island Lake. Both of these projects will be donated conservation easements. The Land Trust hopes to reach agreement on terms with the landowners in the coming weeks, with closing to occur in May or June.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2013:

The Land Trust completed five projects in October 2013. These projects, collectively known as Fischer Lakes, were from 5 landowners all from the same extended family. 4 of the properties were donated; the fifth was acquired for the purchase price of \$170,000. The properties totaled 473 acres and 28,233 feet of shoreline and are described in greater detail below. To date, this grant has delivered 7 conservation easements on 552 acres and 33,824 feet of shoreline.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** 199-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and a pond that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property is incredibly unique in that it contains over 15,968 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer, Rice, Bass and Murphy Lake.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was purchased for \$170,000 with funding from the Habitat Corridors Partnership – Phase VII grant. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** This 58- acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,835 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Albertson lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits division, mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** This 37-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and

aquatic species. The property contains over 1,126 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Albertson Lake and is part of a larger land protection complex.

- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits division, mining, agricultural and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Ottertail County

- **Description:** This 71-acre property in Ottertail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 3,175 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Gray Lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat and water quality. Specifically, the easement prohibits division, new development, mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** This 108-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,006 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer Lake, Albertson Lake and a pond, and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

Work continues on two Black Lake projects that have a high likelihood of closing before the grant program ends in June of 2014.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2013:

The Land Trust completed its second project under this grant phase in December, 2012. This conservation easement was donated by the landowners and protects 48 acres of land in Otter Tail County. The completed project is described below.

Project: Blanche Lake, Otter Tail County

Description: This 48-acre property in Otter Tail County contains a mix of oak forest and woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands. The property also includes approximately 2,217 feet of shoreline along Lake Blanche and 723 feet of shoreline along an unnamed river flowing out of Annie Battle Lake and into Blanche Lake. The property enhances the habitat and open space of a larger complex of protected land, connecting with Glendalough State Park to the south and extending to three other properties protected by the Land Trust using prior ENRTF funding (Lake Emma Tracts).

The easement prohibits division of the property, industrial use and agricultural use. Residential use is limited.

The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. \$15,000 of 2011 HCP ENRTF funds will be dedicated for stewardship on this project.

The Land Trust continues to work with other landowners to complete this phase of the HCP grant. It is anticipated that at least one of the Black Lake projects and one of the Fischer Lakes projects will be completed by the end of June.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2012:

The Land Trust is working on several of the projects on our potential project list, with particular emphasis on five projects we believe may close as part of this grant. Two of these projects are potential donated easements in Beltrami County. One of these projects is just getting underway, while the other one is moving more slowly than anticipated due to title issues that must be resolved. The other three projects would involve bargain purchases of conservation easements. We hope to reach agreement on terms with all of these landowners by the end of the year with closing to occur early in 2013.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed its first project under this grant phase on December 29, 2012. This conservation easement was donated by the landowners and protects 30 acres of land in Kandiyohi County. The completed project is described below.

Project: Crow River, Kandiyohi County

Description: This 30-acre property consists of woodland, grassland, and wetlands with approximately 2,651 feet of shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River. The mix of grassland, woodland, wetland and riparian areas on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including the short-eared owl, Blanding's turtle, and a variety of migratory songbirds. Additionally, the property provides scenic views of open, rolling landscape in an area experiencing rural residential development.

The easement prohibits division of the property, industrial use, and agricultural use. Residential use is limited.

The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. \$15,000 of 2011 HCP ENRTF funds will be dedicated for stewardship on this project.

The Land Trust continues to work with other landowners to complete this phase of the HCP grant. It is anticipated that the Black Lake project will be completed by the end of June which will protect 470 acres and over a mile of shoreline in Beltrami County.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2011:

The Land Trust expects to complete the 30-acre Crow River project (first project under this grant) by the end of the year. Additionally, we will complete the 80-acre Glacial Ridge project by the end of the year, however, we will not be using ENRTF funding. After visiting the property, we determined that it did not contain sufficient shoreline to fit with our Shoreland Protection Program. Therefore, this project has been removed from the attached acquisition list and project summary document. We also continue to work on a number of the other projects on the acquisition list and continue to conduct outreach to other potential landowners. From that outreach work, we have identified one additional project that we would like to add to our list. The Warren Lake project is described in more detail on the acquisition list and the project summary document.

Final Report Summary:

In summary, this grant allowed the Land Trust to complete eight conservation easements, protecting approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protecting nearly 34,172 linear feet (over 6 miles) of fragile shoreline. The Land Trust realized significant cost savings on the grant given that seven of the eight easements completed were donated easements. Because most of the easements were donated, there was a significant amount of savings in the budget specifically in regards to easement acquisition costs.

V. DISSEMINATION:**Description:**

The Minnesota Land Trust holds more conservation easements than any other private conservation organization in the State, making it one of the most experienced organizations working with this unique conservation tool. As we learn from our experiences in protecting land with conservation easements, we will continue to share our knowledge and techniques with others working in this area. Results will be disseminated by the Minnesota Land Trust in our publications and on our web page (www.mnland.org). We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which the lands are located. We will also participate when possible in larger dissemination and publicity efforts of the Habitat Corridors Partnership.

Final Status Report as of June 30, 2014:

Land Trust staff developed and shared a press release for the final project completed under this grant, the Black Lake project. News of that project completion was also shared on our social media. This project will be included in the Land Trust's 2015 Mid Year Review publication, which will be published in early fall of 2014.

Status as of May 1, 2104:

The completed Fischer Lakes projects were highlighted on the Land Trust's website and through social media following closing in October of 2013. The projects were also described in the Land Trust's 2014 Mid Year Review publication released in April of 2014. Following the Land Trust's press release, the Fischer Lakes properties were publicized in an article in the Frazee-Vergas Forum on November 13, 2013.

Status as of November 1, 2013:

The Land Trust is beginning the process of coordinating media and outreach surrounding the Fischer Lakes projects. We anticipate significant local and regional media. We will pursue print and radio media and utilize our own list of members, supporters, interested parties and social media constituents.

Status as of May 1, 2013:

The Land Trust featured the Blanche Lake project in press, individual presentations and in its 2013 Mid Year Review publication released in late April, 2013. Following the Land Trust's press release, the Blanche Lake property was highlighted in an article in the Fergus Falls Journal on January 31, 2013.

Status as of November 1, 2012:

The completed Crow River project was described in the Land Trust's 2012 Mid Year Review publication released in May 2012.

Status as of May 1, 2012:

No activity to date. The Land Trust has not yet publicized the project completed in December. We anticipate publicity in the future.

Status as of November 1, 2011:

No activity to date. The Land Trust plans to publicize the completion of projects once they are closed.

Final Report Summary:

In summary, all of the projects closed under this grant received publication among a wide mix of media, including the Land Trust's website, the Land Trust's social media accounts, via press releases and local newspapers, and in the Land Trust's publications including the Mid Year Review and the Annual Report.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**A. ENRTF Budget:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount Budgeted (Revised as of May 2014)	\$ Amount Spent	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 120,000	\$ 113,202	Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1 FTE for 3 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.*
Easement Acquisition:	\$ 231,500	\$ 208,001	Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect 400-600 acres of land.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,953	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$6,000 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.55 per mile and \$2,500 for lodging/meals.
Conservation Easement Monitoring and Enforcement Fund:	\$ 90,000	\$90,000	Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring and enforcing 4-6 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 450,000	\$ 419,155	

*Per discussion with LCCMR staff, contract staff is included here to allow flexibility to supplement existing MLT staff capacity to complete anticipate outcomes.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1 for two years

B. Other Funds:

Although we don't anticipate any cash funds at this time, we do anticipate providing leverage through value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project.

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$ 204,000	Appraised value of two donated easements
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Habitat Conservation Partnership partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project is part of the Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Land Trust which includes, among other things, the preservation of lakeshores, rivers and streams for their importance as habitat, for their relationship to water quality, and for the scenic values that have long been associated with Minnesota's beauty. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. All of the HCP project areas selected for this phase of the grant overlap with Land Trust critical landscapes.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF – HCP	\$230,000	\$300,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$102,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See Acquisition List Attachment

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than November 1, 2011, May 1, 2012, November 1, 2012, May 1, 2013, November 1, 2013, and May 1, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 15, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects						
Project Title: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program						
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3a						
Project Manager: John Brosnan						
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$450,000						
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014						
Date of Update: August 1, 2014						
	Activity 1 Budget approved April 15, 2013	Revised Activity 1 Budget as of May 2014	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET						
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements</i>					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.</i>	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$113,202	\$6,798	\$120,000	\$6,798
<i>MLT Conservation Staff</i>						
<i>Contract Land Protection Staff</i>						
<i>MLT Legal Staff</i>						
<i>MLT Support Staff</i>						
Easement Acquisition <i>Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.)</i>	\$251,500	\$231,500	\$208,001	\$23,499	\$231,500	\$23,499
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota</i>	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$7,953	\$547	\$8,500	\$547
Easement Monitoring & Enforcement Fund <i>Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed.</i>	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$419,155	\$30,845	\$450,000	\$30,845

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program

Project Manager Name: John Brosnan

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$450,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	Big Too Much Lake	441235	5277999	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Big Too Much Lake	conservation easement acquisition	55	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
2	Eagle Lake	464861	5273928	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Eagle Lake	conservation easement acquisition	34	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
3	Horseshoe Lake	461655	5272370	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Horseshoe Lake	conservation easement acquisition	26	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
4	Little Too Much Lake	441649	5275254	Itasca	forest, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Little Too Much Lake	conservation easement acquisition	57	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
5	Crow River	345859	5015065	Kandiyohi	woodland, wetland, grassland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River	conservation easement acquisition	30	2,651	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
6	Glacial Ridge	352498	5018632	Kandiyohi	forest, wetlands	part of a larger conservation complex	conservation easement acquisition	100	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact completed
8	Goose Lake	317066	5034284	Pope	forest, wetlands, agricultural, shoreline	wooded shoreline along Goose Lake	conservation easement acquisition	199	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. nitial contact completed
9	Horsehead Lake	321469	5114902	Otter Tail	woodland, grassland, wetlands, ponds	undeveloped shoreline on Horsehead Lake	conservation easement acquisition	43	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
10	Fischer Lakes	296106	5177095	Becker	wetlands, water, forest, grassland, ag land,	undeveloped shoreline on three lakes	conservation easement acquisition	198	10,000	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Likely purchase .
11	Minnesota River	279724	4979940	Lac Qui Parle	forest, wetlands, savanna	undeveloped shoreline along Minnesota River and stream	conservation easement acquisition	157	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway.
12	Lake Washington	433126	4899725	Le Sueur	grassland, forest, wetland, open water, woodlands, agricultural	undeveloped shoreline along intermittent stream that meanders into Lake Washington to the west	conservation easement acquisition	132	6,440	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner - partnership	Donation. Negotiations on hold.
13	Lake Jefferson	432734	4903032	Le Sueur	woodland, wetland, grassland, agricultural, shoreline	wooded shoreline along Lake Jefferson	conservation easement acquisition	73	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations on hold.
14	Le Sueur River	422449	4881853	Blue Earth	grassland, forest, water, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Le Sueur River and an intermittent stream	conservation easement acquisition	55	1,500 +	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
15	Black Lake	363893	5277005	Beltrami	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, shoreline	wooded shoreline along Black Lake	conservation easement acquisition	145	7,160	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
16	Warren Lake	445258	5105258	Mille Lacs	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Warren Lake and Shakopee Lake, contains five native plant communities mapped by MCBS	conservation easement acquisition	152	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust		Purchase. Initial contact completed

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
17	Zumbro Bottoms	569622	4909748	Wabasha	forest, grassland, wetland, agriculture, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along the Zumbro River, contains three native plant communities mapped by MCBS	conservation easement acquisition	250	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
18	Black Lake	363753	5276104	Beltrami	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake	conservation easement acquisition	171	5,000 +	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
19	Balsam Lake	468792	5264534	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Balsam Lake	conservation easement acquisition	17	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
20	Eagle Lake	464446	5273851	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Eagle Lake	conservation easement acquisition	34	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation, Initial contact completed
21	Jones Lake	294004	5183327	Becker	forest, woodland, grassland, wetlands, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Jones Lake and Otter Tail River	conservation easement acquisition	80	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
22	Cedar Lake	466341	4905054	Rice	forest, shoreline	undeveloped island on Cedar Lake containing three native plant communities mapped by MCBS	conservation easement acquisition	11	2,800 +	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
23	Blanche Lake	293638	5139612	Otter Tail	forest, woodland, wetland, grassland, agricultural, shoreline	adjacent to Glendalough State Park and contains undeveloped shoreline along Blanche Lake	conservation easement acquisition	151	2,100+	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Purchase. Initial contact completed
24	Cannon River	479429	4908012	Rice	forest, woodland, wetland, grassland, shoreline	part of a larger conservation complex along this part of the Cannon River	conservation easement acquisition	68	2,000+	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Purchase. Initial contact completed
25	Fischer Lakes	295002	5177179	Becker	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Albertson Lakes, part of a complex	conservation easement acquisition	58	5,313	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
26	Fischer Lakes	294740	5177646	Becker	forest, wetland, grassland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Albertson Lake, a shallow lake key habitat for species in greatest conservation need	conservation easement acquisition	37	1,116	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
27	Fischer Lakes	295870	5177558	Becker	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	encompasses the entire shoreline along Bass Lake	conservation easement acquisition	53	2,617	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
28	Fischer Lakes	295717	5176581	Otter Tail	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Gray Lakes	conservation easement acquisition	88	4,045	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
29	Fischer Lakes	295440	5177646	Becker	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Albertson and Fischer Lakes	conservation easement acquisition	108	4,006	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway

NOTES: The above list includes projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed. Projects not completed under the 2011 phase may be moved to future phases.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND M.L. 2011 Potential Project Summaries

Project Title: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program

Project Manager Name: John Brosnan

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$450,000

*highlighted text signifies a completed project.

PROJECT: Big Too Much Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 55-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that support a large array of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. The property also contains extensive shoreline along Big Too Much Lake and lies adjacent to Chippewa National Forest to the north.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Eagle Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 34-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The property also contains shoreline along Eagle Lake and connects two pieces of George Washington State Forest, creating a larger corridor of protected forest.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Horseshoe Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 26-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that support a large array of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. The property also contains shoreline along Horseshoe Lake and connects to George Washington State Forest at the southwest corner of the property.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Little Too Much Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 57-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed plant communities of forest and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The property also contains shoreline along Little Too Much Lake and lies adjacent to Chippewa National Forest to the north and east.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Crow River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 30-acre property in Kandiyohi County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of wetlands, woodlands and grasslands that support a large variety of fish, wildlife and plants, including the short-eared owl, Blanding's turtle, and a variety of migratory songbirds. Additionally, the wetlands and undeveloped shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River help maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the river and nearby Nest Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The easement will prohibit division of the property, prohibit agricultural use, and limit residential use to the one existing home.

PROJECT: Glacial Ridge

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 100-acre property in Kandiyohi County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species, including migratory birds. The property also contains an extensive amount of basswood – bur oak forest, a native plant community identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. Additionally, the property lies in an area of prior protection work by the Land Trust, and lies adjacent to an existing conservation easement.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Goose Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 199-acre property in Pope County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and aquatic species. The property also contains undeveloped, wooded shoreline along Goose Lake, a natural environment lake.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Horsehead Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 43-acre property in Otter Tail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of woodland, grassland, wetlands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species, including migratory birds. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along Horsehead Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** 199-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and a pond that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property is incredibly unique in that it contains over 15,968 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer Lake and Murphy Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Minnesota River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 157-acre property in Lac Qui Parle County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and a pond that provide habitat for a variety of species. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along the Minnesota River and one of its tributaries. The southern dry hill prairie on the property has been identified as a significant native plant community by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Lake Washington

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 132-acre property in Le Sueur County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodlands, wetlands,

grasslands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along a stream that eventually flows into Lake Washington.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Lake Jefferson

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 73-acre property in Le Sueur County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property also contains undeveloped wooded shoreline along Lake Jefferson and lies adjacent to Bur Oak Wildlife Management Area to the west.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: LeSueur River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 55-acre property in Blue Earth County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of grassland and forest that support a variety of wildlife. The sugar maple – basswood forest on the property has been identified as a significant native plant community by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along the Le Sueur River and one of its tributaries.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Black Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 145-acre property in Beltrami County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodland, wetland and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains over 7,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Black Lake and lies adjacent to Three Island Lake County Park to the east.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Zumbro Bottoms

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 250-acre property in Wabasha County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains an extensive amount of undeveloped shoreline along Zumbro River and its tributaries. The southern dry-mesic oak forest, silver maple - green ash – cottonwood terrace forest, and the elm – ash – basswood forest have all been identified as significant native plant communities by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The property also lies adjacent to Richard J. Dorer hardwood Forest to the south.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Warren Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 152-acre property in Mille Lacs County is adjacent to Mille Lacs Kathio State Park and contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodland, wetland and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along both Warren Lake and Shakopee Lake. The sedge meadow, alder swamp, willow-dogwood shrub swamp, northern conifer swamp and red oak-basswood forest on the property have all been identified as significant native plant communities by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private non-profit organization (church).
- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Balsam Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 17-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undeveloped habitats of forest and wetlands that support a variety of wildlife. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along Balsam Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Eagle Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 34-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of hardwood and conifer forests, and wetlands that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains over 1,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Eagle Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Jones Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 80-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of upland forest, shallow marsh, bogs, and shrub swamp. The property also contains over 1,000 feet of shoreline along Jones Lake and more than 2,000 feet of shoreline along both sides of Otter Tail River. Additionally, the property contains significant native plant communities of aspen-birch-fir forest and sedge meadow as identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Cedar Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 11-acre island property in Rice County is located on Cedar Lake and contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of hardwood forest and cobble beach shoreline. The sugar maple forest, silver maple-green ash-cottonwood terrace forest and gravel/cobble beach on the property have all been identified as significant native plant communities by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. Additionally, the Minnesota County Biological Survey has also identified the property as part of a site of high biodiversity significance.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Blanche Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 151-acre property in Otter Tail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodland, wetland and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains over 2,100 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Blanche Lake and lies adjacent to Glendalough State Park to the south.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.

- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Cannon River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 68-acre property in Rice County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodlands, wetlands and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains more than 2,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along the Cannon River. The property also lies across the river from The Nature Conservancy's Trout Lily Preserve and is located a little over half a mile upstream from Cannon River Trout Lily SNA.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 58- acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,835 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Albertson lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 37-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 1,126 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Albertson Lake and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 52-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 2,617 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Bass Lake and is part of a larger land protection complex.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

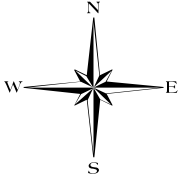
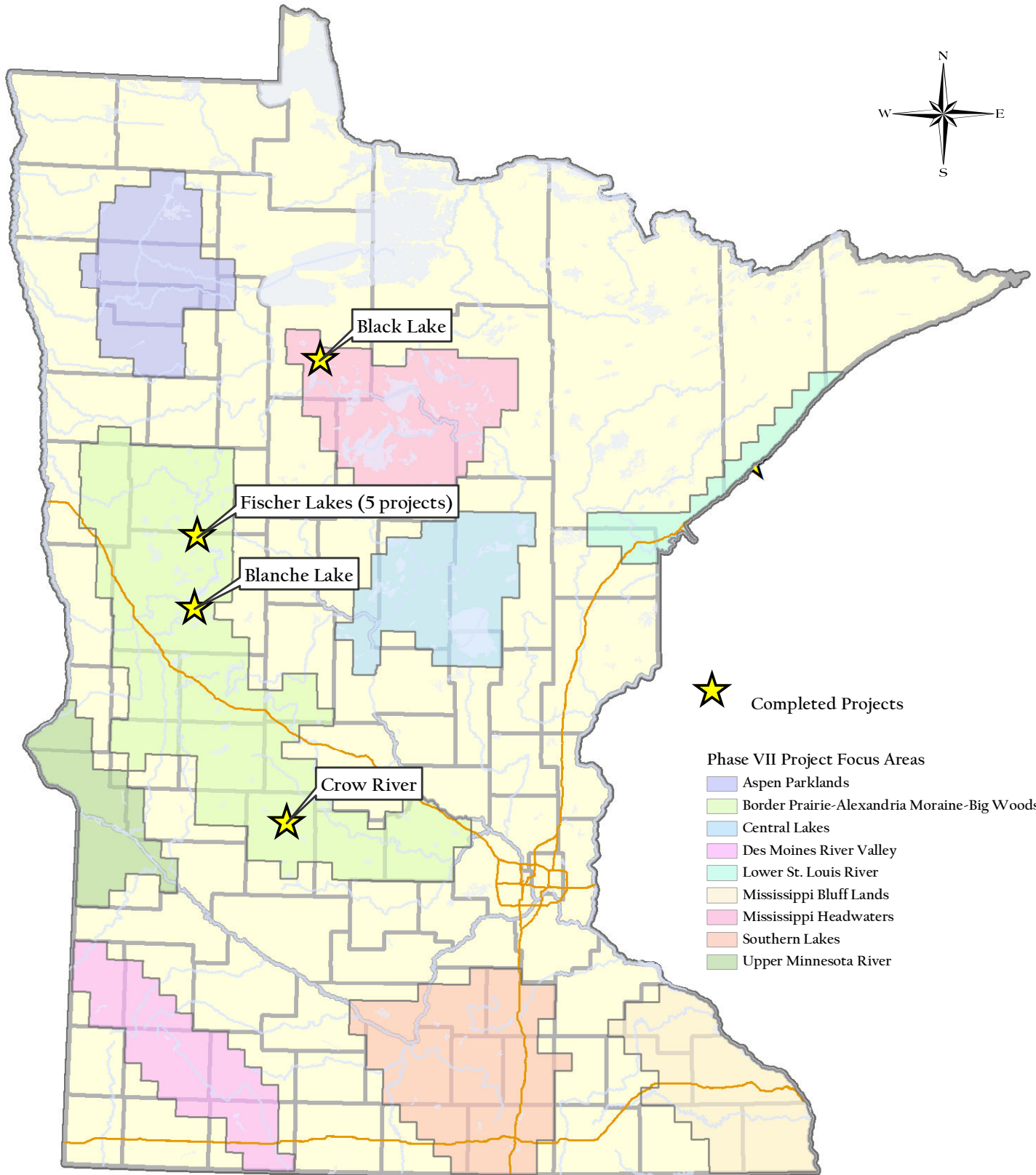
- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 71-acre property in Ottertail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 3,175 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Gray Lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 108-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,006 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer Lake, and a pond, and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII

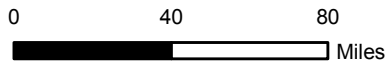
MINNESOTA LAND TRUST COMPLETED PROJECTS



Completed Projects

Phase VII Project Focus Areas

- Aspen Parklands
- Border Prairie-Alexandria Moraine-Big Woods
- Central Lakes
- Des Moines River Valley
- Lower St. Louis River
- Mississippi Bluff Lands
- Mississippi Headwaters
- Southern Lakes
- Upper Minnesota River



Fergus Falls Journal.com

Glendalough complex to grow by 48 acres

Published 10:49am Thursday, January 31, 2013

“It’s the next best thing to having that area be park land.”

That’s the reaction of Glendalough State Park Manager Jeff Wiersma when asked for his assessment of a new conservation easement located adjacent to the park. Forty-eight acres of land located adjacent to Glendalough State Park in Otter Tail County is protected from development forever, through the efforts of the Minnesota Land Trust and funds from the Minnesota state lottery.

The Walvatne family has farmed the property for over 65 years, first raising cattle and then focusing on field crops. Reuben Walvatne has lived on the property his entire life, and worked the farm with his brother Joseph. He’s happy about being able to protect his family property with a conservation easement, saying with a smile, “It gives the trees some credit for being there.” Through the terms of the easement, the property will remain undeveloped into perpetuity, and will remain in private ownership.

This conservation easement is particularly significant because it extends the natural characteristics of Glendalough State Park’s northern boundary, on a lake that has already experienced considerable shoreline development. This new easement joins three that are already in place on the park’s eastern boundary along Lake Emma. All told, the four easements add well over two miles of undeveloped shoreline to the park’s nine miles of shoreline. The 900+ acres of undeveloped land protected by the area conservation easements effectively increases the wildlife habitat of the park by a third.

The undeveloped and natural character of the Walvatne property provides significant habitat for a variety of fish, wildlife and plants, including the short-eared owl, the American badger, the common snapping turtle, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and songbirds. In addition, protecting the shoreline helps to maintain water quality and the ecological integrity of the lake.

According to , “Blanche Lake is already very developed; this provides relief from that development and will be appreciated by other lakeshore owners,” Wiersma said. “Developers like to put houses and condos next to state parks because they get this great view of undeveloped land, but the park visitors don’t end up with such a good view.

“We place a high priority on projects that are contiguous to other conservation easements, state parks or other undeveloped land,” says Kris Larson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Land Trust adding, “This is not only a significant legacy for the landowners; it is also an example of the public and natural benefits provided to Minnesota thanks to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the wisdom of the Legislature.”

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The Trust Fund is permanently funded by Minnesota State Lottery proceeds to ensure future benefits for Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.

The Minnesota Land Trust is a membership-based non-profit organization. Its mission is to permanently protect Minnesota’s natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. The organization is funded by individual members and through grants from a variety of private and public sources and operates statewide through regional offices in Duluth, Ely and St. Paul. The organization has completed 444 conservation projects permanently protecting more than 40,900 acres of natural and scenic land and over 876,000 feet of fragile shoreline statewide.

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or other qualified agency that permanently limits certain uses of land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners continue to own and enjoy the land and pay property taxes. Once created, the conservation easement is binding on all future owners of the property. More information can be found online at www.mnland.org.



A weather widget from WeatherForYou.com. It displays a sun icon, the temperature 43°F, and wind information: SW 15 G 26 MPH. Below this, it says "Click for Forecast" and "WeatherForYou.com".

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Frazee landowners sign conservation easement to keep lakes, land pristine

Submitted by admin on Wed, 11/13/2013 - 10:48



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2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Shallow Lake Conservation Easements (3c)
PROJECT MANAGER: Jon Schneider
AFFILIATION: Ducks Unlimited
MAILING ADDRESS: 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Alexandria, Minnesota 56308
PHONE: 320/762-9916
E-MAIL: jschneider@ducks.org
WEBSITE: www.ducks.org
FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: ML 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3c

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$500,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Shallow lakes represent the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat. Shallow lakes are defined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as basins 50 acres or larger with maximum depth of 15 feet or less. To help protect shallow lakes of importance to waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited (DU) works with private landowners to limit future subdivision and development of shoreland around shallow lakes by securing permanent DU conservation easements, and restores agricultural lands back to habitat where possible.

Through this grant, DU conducted landowner outreach to promote conservation easements to private landowners on select shallow lakes of importance to waterfowl, and offered to purchase or accept donated permanent conservation easements on shallow lakes DU has prioritized for shoreland protection. These included Lake Christina in Douglas County, Fish Lake in Stearns County, Cedar Lake in Meeker County, and Geneva Lake in Freeborn County. This effort addresses the goal of protecting lands adjacent to shallow lakes as outlined in the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' "Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund" and in the Minnesota DNR's "Duck Recovery Plan".

DU attempted to work with 12 landowners on these lakes to secure conservation easements. Most were either non-responsive or declined to consider conservation easements for various reasons, and none were willing to consider donating easements due to the impact on the value of their land. Five landowners agreed to consider selling conservation easements, and easements were appraised. Three of these landowners declined to proceed, whereas two ultimately agreed to sell conservation easements. DU subsequently closed two purchased conservation easements permanently protecting 33 acres on Cedar Lake in Meeker County and 70 acres on Lake Christina in Douglas County. Of these 103.8 acres, 53 acres on Lake Christina were restored and the remaining 48 acres were intact natural habitats.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Conservation easement land protection deals involve private landowners, and publicity of those legal arrangements is a sensitive issue. DU will report accomplishments through the LCCMR website and in DU publications such as our Living Lakes Initiative progress reports.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Report: 8/22/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Project Title: HCP VII - Shallow Lake Conservation Easements (3c)

Project Manager: Jon Schneider
Affiliation: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Address: 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE
City: Alexandria **State:** MN **Zip Code:** 56308
Telephone Number: (320) 762-9916
Email Address: jschneider@ducks.org
Web Address: www.ducks.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$: 500,000
	Amount Spent \$: <u>407,010</u>
	Balance \$: 92,990

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3c

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

Shallow lakes represent the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat. Shallow lakes are defined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as basins 50 acres or larger with maximum depth of 15 feet or less. To help protect shallow lakes of importance to waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited (DU) works with private landowners to limit future subdivision and development of shoreland around shallow lakes by securing permanent DU conservation easements, and restores agricultural lands back to habitat where possible.

Through this grant, DU conducted landowner outreach to promote conservation easements to private landowners on select shallow lakes of importance to waterfowl, and offered to purchase or accept donated permanent conservation easements on shallow lakes DU has prioritized for shoreland protection. These included Lake Christina in Douglas County, Fish Lake in Stearns County, Cedar Lake in Meeker County, and Geneva Lake in Freeborn County. This effort addresses the goal of protecting lands adjacent to shallow lakes as outlined in the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' "Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund" and in the Minnesota DNR's "Duck Recovery Plan".

DU attempted to work with 12 landowners on these lakes to secure conservation easements. Most were either non-responsive or declined to consider conservation easements for various reasons, and none were willing to consider donating easements due to the impact on the value of their land. Five landowners agreed to consider selling conservation easements, and easements were appraised. Three of these landowners declined to proceed, whereas two ultimately agreed to sell conservation easements. DU subsequently closed two purchased conservation easements permanently protecting 33.6 acres on Cedar Lake in Meeker County and 70.2 acres on Lake Christina in Douglas County. Of these 103.8 acres, 53 acres on Lake Christina were restored and the remaining 48 acres were intact natural habitats.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 2012: DU began conservation outreach and promotion work through this grant with multiple landowners in October 2011, and secured an appraisal for a conservation easement on the Radunz property on Cedar Lake. DU will negotiated the terms of the easement on Radunz, clear title, and order a baseline documentation report prior to closing the easement in spring 2012. No restoration work was conducted during this period.

Project Status as of July 2012: DU ordered a baseline documentation report on the proposed Radunz easement on Cedar Lake in Meeker County from a consultant, reviewed the draft easement with LCCMR staff, and prepared for closing in June. However, the landowners mortgage company bank has not yet subordinated so closing has been delayed. DU is working with the landowner and bank to have the acres to be placed under easement removed from the larger mortgage acres that also contains the landowners residence (not included in the easement) to rectify the process, and all parties are optimistic that the situation will be successfully resolve in time to close the easement by Dec 31, 2012. Meanwhile, DU also appraised the proposed Rossing easement on Lake Christina and tried to negotiate a donated, bargain sale, or full purchased easement with the landowner. However, the landowner is unwilling to donate or consider a bargain sale, and disagrees with the appraised value of the land and the easement offer (believes both are too low). Therefore, this potential easement has become inactive for the time. DU contacted other remaining landowners on Lake Christina and others listed in our grant acquisition parcel list, but none are willing to consider a conservation easement at this time. DU land staff will contact other landowners and consider other shallow lakes for protection, and will determine if new parcels or lakes need to be amended into our grant work plan.

Status as of January 2013: In October 2012, DU closed on the 33-acre Radunz conservation easement on Cedar Lake in Meeker and McLeod County. This conservation easement contains 4 acres of wetlands and 29 acres of uplands in their natural state, and does not require any restoration. DU staff continued to conduct conservation easement outreach and promotion to landowners on Lake Christina in Douglas County, Simon Lake in Pope County, and around Malardi WMA in Wright County among other shallow lakes, and although discussions with several are ongoing, no landowners were willing to commit to the concept enough to warrant an appraisal during the reporting period.

Project Status as of July 2013: DU conservation staff continue to strategically pursue conservation easements on key shallow lakes prioritized for shoreland protection due to their importance to waterfowl, including but not limited to Lake Christina in Douglas County, Simon Lake in Pope County, and Malardi Lake WMA in Wright County. During this period, negotiations to secure a conservation easement on the Rossing property on Lake Christina failed due to landowner concerns that the appraisal indicated a lower land valuation than currently assessed by the county. DU conservation staff maintained contact with other landowners around Lake Christina who continue to consider our previous interest in securing conservation easements on their land, and initiated contact with new landowners on Simon Lake, Malardi Lake, and elsewhere. Other inquiries to DU about land protection options on lakes not of priority to DU were received and referred to the Minnesota Land Trust.

Project Status as of January 2014: DU conservation staff continue to strategically pursue conservation easements on key shallow lakes prioritized for shoreland protection due to their importance to waterfowl, including but not limited to Lake Christina in Douglas County, Simon Lake in Pope County, and Malardi Lake WMA in Wright County. However, DU lost our land protection specialist and landowner interest in conservation easements on these lakes appears to have waned since this funding was requested, thus providing challenges to accomplishing the goals of this grant. Nevertheless, DU a landowner on Lake Christina recently expressed interested in selling a conservation easement on approximately 81 acres, including protecting approximately 3,000 feet of shoreline and restoring approximately 30 acres of cropland back to native prairie grassland. Once approved, DU will negotiate, appraise, and close a conservation easement and restore this property before this grant ends on June 30, 2014. Since this parcel is very consistent with others on our acquisition list and protecting it is consistent with the goal of this grant, an amendment to add this parcel (Lake Christina – Gahlon Tract) to our acquisition list is included with this status report. As a result, our goal of protecting at least 150 acres through this grant will be reduced to 112 acres also. Amendment request approved by LCCMR on March 4, 2014

Project Status as of May 2014: DU purchased a permanent conservation easement to protect 70.2 acres from Dan Gahlon on the north side of Lake Christina for \$128,000, and is now moving quickly to restore 53 acres of cropland back to native prairie grasses and forbs on the site in June 2014 before this appropriation ends. Portions of the Gahlon land are infested with invasive trees and non-native brome grass that must be removed to ensure successful prairie and forb restoration, including a robust mix of wildflowers for pollinator habitat. DU requests to amend the budget to shift \$50,000 from Easement Acquisition to Restoration Contracts to allow restoration of this site due to more restoration needs and higher costs than envisioned in 2010 when the budget was developed. Due to the late date, seed availability is limited and prices are high, and contractors busy with other work. Cost estimates include up to \$1,000/acre for 53 acres of prairie grass/forb seed/seeding/weed control plus \$10,000 for invasive volunteer tree removal and \$6,000 for plow/disk site preparation prior to seeding, \$5,000 for small wetland restoration, and \$6,000 for invasive brush and tree removal along prairie restoration sites along Lake Christina as necessary and as time permits to ensure a successful prairie restoration with excellent pollinator habitat and to remove invasive tree seed sources adjacent to the restoration site. Also, \$2,000, is shifted from Professional Services for Acquisition to Professional Services for Restoration for a consultant to assist with prairie restoration implementation and initial evaluation. Following the issue of a \$9,950 contract for tree removal from the prairie restoration fields (contractor on site now), only \$20,050 remains in our Restoration budget without this amendment, which simply won't be enough to fully restore wetland and prairie back to a robust pollinator mix of native species.

Approved by the LCCMR June 10, 2014.

Final Report Summary as of June 2014: DU attempted to work with 12 landowners on Lake Christina in Douglas County, Fish Lake in Stearns County, Cedar Lake in Meeker County, and Geneva Lake in Freeborn County to secure conservation easements. Most were either non-responsive or declined to consider conservation easements for various reasons, and none were willing to consider donating easements due to the impact on the value of their land. Five landowners agreed to consider selling conservation easements, and easements were appraised. Three of these landowners declined to proceed, whereas two ultimately agreed to sell conservation easements. DU subsequently closed two purchased conservation easements permanently protecting 33.6 acres on Cedar Lake in Meeker County and 70.2 acres on Lake Christina in Douglas County. Of these 103.8 acres, 53 acres on Lake Christina were restored and the remaining 48 acres were intact natural habitats.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Promote and Secure Conservation Easements

Description: Ducks Unlimited biologists will work with private landowners on shallow lakes to inform and educate them about permanent conservation easements to gain their interest and trust in beginning land protection negotiations. Successful outreach work will culminate with the appraisal and negotiation of donation, bargain sale, or full purchase of permanent conservation easement(s) on 150 acres on or near shallow lakes prioritized by Ducks Unlimited.

Through our Living Lakes Initiative, Ducks Unlimited has refined our conservation focus in Minnesota on improving and protecting key shallow lakes and large marshes (wetlands) managed by the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for migrating and brood-rearing waterfowl. DU's goal is to help enhance and protect 400 shallow lakes and associated wetland complexes (a subset of DNR's 1,800 shallow lake goal). DU and our agency partners have identified that some of these managed wildlife lakes may also be threatened by future shoreland development due to their landscape location and proximity to urban areas and interstates, especially those in the "transition" area between prairie and forest where recreational lands are in demand and rolling hills combined with pockets of forest near I-94 and I-35 make future shoreland development more likely. DU has prioritized for shoreland protection several of these prairie-forest transition lakes and wild rice lakes that are managed for waterfowl based on their habitat importance to waterfowl, investments in management, receptiveness of landowners to conservation easements, and market values of lands that make conservation easements both viable and attractive to landowners.

To achieve our shallow lake shoreland protection goals, DU biologists work with shallow lake private landowners on select shallow lakes to educate them about conservation easements, and DU will try to secure donated or purchased permanent conservation easements from one or more willing landowner(s) on 112 acres in one or more easement on one or more select shallow lakes, especially those managed by DNR for waterfowl migration habitat. On those same acres, DU will attempt to restore approximately 30 acres of cropland back to native grasses and restore small drained wetlands if and as needed, based on the condition of lands protected within easements and landowner desires. If the landowner agrees to retire cropland back to habitat as a condition of the easement, restoration may be conducted, otherwise cultivated or otherwise prior converted lands within the bounds of the easement will remain. Specifically, restoration will be attempted on lands within the easement where cultivation is prohibited through the terms of the easement, but further restoration and management of intact habitat (including acres previously restored) will not be addressed through this grant or the terms of the conservation easement and will remain the responsibility of the landowner to manage as he/she determines appropriate. Detailed restoration plans will be developed in the process as appropriate, if needed. If no habitat restoration is required on lands protected via DU conservation easements funded by this grant (e.g., if lands are in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program), then restoration funds originally budgeted will be amended into other expense categories in this grant.

DU elects to close on specific easements on shallow lakes prioritized for protection based on viability within the grant period and within grant budgets. Easements usually take years of landowner discussions and negotiations to mature, often being started in one grant and being completed in another several years later. The selection and number of viable easement deals on these relatively few priority shallow lakes that DU can accomplish is usually determined by funds available through Trust Fund grant along with other cost share (e.g., federal NAWCA grant funds). Usually, since easement deals are so difficult to negotiate and take so long to close, and because our priority lakes are so few that presents so few opportunities, easement deals on these priority shallow lakes are usually closed as they become available and are viable within a grant period.

Grant funds will be used for \$80,000 of DU professional staff time over two years to promote conservation easements to landowners and negotiate terms and conditions of individual easements (due diligence), appraisals, title clearance and other legal services, boundary surveys, baseline condition documentation reports, implement restorations if needed, and file necessary documentation with the LCCMR. Private funds secured by DU will be used to endow the cost of future annual stewardship monitoring and legal defense of permanent conservation easements secured. DU will also use up to \$20,000 over two years (4% of this \$500,000 grant) for personnel costs of grant administration, reporting, and coordination of grant activities, including providing direction to DU field staff performing landowner outreach, negotiating easements, and coordination with DU legal staff.

Conservation easements rights secured will not include the right of public access because public access does not result in increased conservation benefit, because it would reduce the funding available for other easements, because it would likely cost the same as buying the land in fee-title to secure, and because landowners on the select shallow lakes we are trying to protect will not agree to sell that right. However, DU will suggest and encourage landowners to voluntarily enroll in the new Minnesota public access program once it is implemented and available. DU will address the issue of obtaining right-of-first refusal on a case-by-case basis, and may add a clause for such to future easements, if needed.

DU endow the cost of future annual stewardship and monitoring and enforcement of permanent conservation easements secured through this grant, and will annually inspect and report on the condition of the property. Conservation easements held by DU/WAT are monitored once a year by DU field staff who conduct annual site visits of all protected properties. These annual monitoring and stewardship inspections and associated reporting requirements are considered a perpetual responsibility by DU. Annual inspections include talking with landowners about their land and touring their property. Any natural or man-made changes to the property are noted in a monitoring report and documented with a photograph, and land management activities and any potential problems discussed with landowners and resolved. Reports by field staff are reviewed by the Director of Land Protection to ensure that no violations have occurred.

Long-term liabilities associated with monitoring and stewardship of the DU/WAT easement portfolio is determined through the use of the DU stewardship calculator that estimates annual staff and travel costs associated with landowner contact, site monitoring visit, office reporting tasks, and legal defense in the event that a violation occurs and can not be resolved without legal action. DU refined these costs in 2010 with the best available data from previous years of DU conservation easement monitoring and other external data. Currently, DU's stewardship endowment requirements for conservation easements of 480 acres or less in Minnesota has been calculated by DU at \$21,000. A 3% spend rate (as established by DU's Finance Committee) is used to determine the endowment necessary to offset future annual monitoring costs.

The conditions of the protected properties are identified in a baseline documentation report. This document assures that any changes that may adversely affect the conservation values will be identified during annual monitoring visits. Further, the terms of the conservation easement require that reserved rights may only be exercised with advance notice and approval of the Holder (DU/WAT). The exercise of such rights cannot harm or adversely affect the conservation values of the protected properties.

As with all DU/WAT held easements, any Trust Fund supported easement projects will be monitored annually. DU/WAT will comply with all reporting requirements established in any agreements or statutes pertaining to these funds. All DU/WAT conservation easements clearly indicate that the easement is perpetual. Further, the easements contain language that limits the extinguishment of the easements to condemnation or court order only. This language is standard for all easements used by land trusts and essentially comes directly from the IRS Code and Regulations regarding the perpetual nature of easements. DU/WAT maintains a separate endowment dedicated to easement stewardship. Earnings of the Stewardship Endowment are available for monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of conservation easements in the portfolio.

For easements secured through this 2011 grant, the amount required to endow future stewardship, annual monitoring/reporting, and legal defense has been determined by DU to be \$21,000 per easement, and will be private funds secured by, or donated to, DU. Stewardship funds will be managed in a separate WAT easement stewardship account according to the DU Board's investment policy. Trust funds for easement monitoring and stewardship will be received by DU National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.

Furthermore, the restricted endowment will be invested according to the policies set forth in DU and WAT's Investment Policy. DU considers the enforcement and defense of the terms and conditions of the conservation easement as an operational cost, and DU understands that this obligation may require the additional expenditure of DU funds to enforce the terms of the easement. WAT adopted the *Land Trust Standards and Practices* published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004 on April 23, 2005 as technical guidelines for the organization's operation, and has recently received full certification from the Land Trust Alliance. DU has further outlined conservation easement stewardship management and enforcement procedures for DU staff in a land protection handbook. To accommodate the need to record a notice of ENRTF funding restrictions on the deed to lands encumbered by ENRTF-funded conservation easements, DU will include the following language in all conservation easement documents secured with full or partial reimbursement through this LCCMR grant:

"WHEREAS, Wetlands America Trust, Inc. acquired this Easement with funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") pursuant to a grant agreement between the Trust Fund and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. dated _____. Wetlands America Trust, Inc. is placing this notice on record as confirmation of its obligation as set forth in the grant agreement and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 116P.15, states the following: "This interest in real property shall be administered in accordance with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the grant agreement or work program controlling the acquisition of the property. The interest in real property, or any portion of the interest in real property, shall not be sold, transferred, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered without obtaining the prior written approval of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor. If the holder of the interest in real property fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement or work program, ownership of the interest in real property shall transfer to this state."

The primary goal of DU conservation easements in Minnesota is to preserve the general condition of existing habitat on the protected property in its current state and protect against future subdivision, development, and shallow lake shoreline alteration. DU conservation easements are permanent, but are working easements that often allow for ongoing use of the property and may include farming activities on some portions of the protected property. In some cases, restoration of shoreland habitat is permitted through the easement, and DU works closely with landowners to encourage restoration of habitats whenever possible. DU meets these goals through the negotiation of conservation easement terms, and ensures they are maintained through annual easement monitoring site visits with the landowner. A restoration and management plan will be developed as part of our baseline documentation report (BDR), and the BDR and stewardship plan for each conservation easement secured through this grant will be provided to LCCMR staff with copies of the recorded easement.

Annual reports on monitoring and management of easements acquired with ENRTF funding will be made to LCCMR, as required. This activity also includes grant administration tasks up to \$20,000.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$408,000
	Amount Spent:	<u>\$334,169</u>
	Balance:	\$ 73,831

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2014

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Approximately 112 acres protected via DU fully-purchased conservation easement, and grant administration	June 30, 2014	\$ 408,000

Activity Status as of January 2012: DU began conservation outreach and promotion work through this grant with landowners in October 2011, and secured an appraisal for a conservation easement on the Radunz property on Cedar Lake. DU will negotiated the terms of the easement on Radunz, clear title, and order a baseline documentation report prior to closing the easement in spring 2012.

Activity Status as of July 2012: DU worked with the landowner to prepare the pending Radunz easement on Cedar Lake in Meeker County for closing and reviewed the draft easement with LCCMR staff, but closing was delayed by the landowner’s mortgage bank. DU appraised the pending Rossing easement on Lake Christina in Douglas County, but the landowner disagreed with the valuation of her land and the easement offer, and no easement deal appears viable on her land at this time. DU is working with all the other landowners of potential easement parcels listed in our grant acquisition list, but none have expressed interest in pursuing a conservation easement at this time. Therefore, DU will explore alternative potential easement tracts and shallow lakes on which to focus conservation easements, and add new parcels to our acquisition list via grant work plan amendment request.

Activity Status as of January 2013: In October 2012, DU closed on the 33-acre Radunz conservation easement on Cedar Lake in Meeker and McLeod County. This conservation easement contains 4 acres of wetlands and 29 acres of uplands in their natural state, and does not require any restoration. DU staff continued to conduct conservation easement outreach and promotion to landowners on Lake Christina in Douglas County, Simon Lake in Pope County, and around Malardi WMA in Wright County among other shallow lakes, and although discussions with several are ongoing, no landowners were willing to commit to the concept enough to warrant an appraisal during the reporting period.

Activity Status as of July 2013: DU conservation staff continue to strategically pursue conservation easements on key shallow lakes prioritized for shoreland protection due to their importance to waterfowl, including but not limited to Lake Christina in Douglas County, Simon Lake in Pope County, and Malardi Lake WMA in Wright County. During this period, negotiations to secure a conservation easement on the Rossing property on Lake Christina failed due to landowner concerns that the appraisal indicated a lower land valuation than currently assessed by the county. DU conservation staff maintained contact with other landowners around Lake Christina who continue to consider our previous interest in securing conservation easements on their land, and initiated contact with new landowners on Simon Lake, Malardi Lake, and elsewhere. Other inquiries to DU about land protection options on lakes not of priority to DU were received and referred to the Minnesota Land Trust.

Activity Status as of January 2014: DU conservation staff continue to strategically pursue conservation easements on key shallow lakes prioritized for shoreland protection due to their importance to waterfowl, including but not limited to Lake Christina in Douglas County, Simon Lake in Pope County, and Malardi Lake WMA in Wright County. However, DU lost our land protection specialist and landowner interest in conservation easements on these lakes appears to have waned since this funding was requested, thus providing challenges to accomplishing the goals of this grant. Nevertheless, DU a landowner on Lake Christina recently expressed interested in selling a conservation easement on approximately 81 acres, including protecting approximately 3,000 feet of shoreline and restoring approximately 30 acres of cropland back to native prairie grassland. Once

approved, DU will negotiate, appraise, and close a conservation easement and restore this property before this grant ends on June 30, 2014. Since this parcel is very consistent with others on our acquisition list and protecting it is consistent with the goal of this grant, an amendment to add this parcel (Lake Christina – Gahlon Tract) to our acquisition list is included with this status report. As a result, our goal of protecting at least 150 acres through this grant will be reduced to 112 acres also.

Activity Status as of May 2014: DU purchased a permanent conservation easement to protect 70.2 acres from Dan Gahlon on the north side of Lake Christina for \$128,000, and is now moving quickly to restore 53 acres of cropland back to native prairie grasses and forbs on the site in June 2014 before this appropriation ends. Portions of the Gahlon land are infested with invasive trees and non-native brome grass that must be removed to ensure successful prairie and forb restoration, including a robust mix of wildflowers for pollinator habitat.

Final Report Summary: DU attempted to work with 12 landowners on Lake Christina in Douglas County, Fish Lake in Stearns County, Cedar Lake in Meeker County, and Geneva Lake in Freeborn County to secure conservation easements. Most were either non-responsive or declined to consider conservation easements for various reasons, and none were willing to consider donating easements due to the impact on the value of their land. Five landowners agreed to consider selling conservation easements, and easements were appraised. Three of these landowners declined to proceed, whereas two ultimately agreed to sell conservation easements. DU subsequently closed two purchased conservation easements permanently protecting 33.6 acres on Cedar Lake in Meeker County and 70.2 acres on Lake Christina in Douglas County. A remaining grant balance of \$73,831 for this Activity #1 resulted from the loss of our DU land protection specialist in Minnesota in May 2013 which limited outreach efforts and associated expense in the last year of this grant, and limited landowner interest in conservation easements around the key shallow lakes that DU has prioritized for shoreland protection.

ACTIVITY 2: Restore Habitat, Where Needed, and if Appropriate and Approved by Landowners

Description: DU biologists may help private conservation easement landowners restore converted uplands or wetlands back to wildlife habitat through native plantings and wetland restoration in cases where restoration is needed and landowners agree to restore eased lands. This work may involve the seeding of native grasses and forbs, and small wetland restorations, if/as needed and requested by landowner(s). Some areas may be restored independently through USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), or by consultants hired by DU with DU biologist oversight. Restoration plans will be developed in cases where landowners agree to restoration concepts. While all conservation easements secured by DU are important as they include the protection and prevention of further degradation of shoreland along key shallow lakes, and it is primarily the protection of the actual shallow lake shoreline that is most important. Easements secured on shoreland may include some areas of cropland and other converted lands in obvious need of restoration, but landowners decide the fate of these areas. Restoration of these sites will be conducted only when and where landowners agree. In many cases, landowners may not elect to restore those sites or allow restoration of some portions of easements, in which case they will be allowed to exist in their current state, including cropland. Restorations will be performed through contracts that include labor, supplies, and plant materials.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 92,000
Amount Spent: \$ 72,842
Balance: \$ 19,158

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2014

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Approximately 53 acres of uplands & wetlands will be restored if and as needed on easements secured through this grant.	June 30, 2014	\$ 92,000

Activity Status as of January 2012: No restoration work has occurred through this grant, as no easements in need of restoration have yet been secured.

Activity Status as of July 2012: No restoration work has occurred through this grant, as no easements in need of restoration have yet been secured. No restoration work is anticipated on the pending Radunz easement as the land is in intact habitat (grass and trees).

Activity Status as of January 2013: No restoration work has occurred through this grant, as no conservation easements with restoration needs have yet been secured. No restoration work is required on the Radunz easement as the habitat is intact (wetland, grass and trees).

Activity Status as of July 2013: No restoration work has occurred through this grant, as no conservation easements with restoration needs have yet been secured. No restoration work is required on the Radunz easement as the habitat is intact (wetland, grass and trees).

Activity Status as of January 2014: No restoration work has occurred through this grant, as no conservation easements with restoration needs have yet been secured. No restoration work is required on the Radunz easement as the habitat is intact (wetland, grass and trees). Approximately 30 acres of cropland is anticipated as needing to be restored back to native prairie grassland on the Gahlon easement in June 2014, however.

Activity Status as of May 2014: DU purchased a permanent conservation easement to protect 70.2 acres from Dan Gahlon on the north side of Lake Christina for \$128,000, and is now moving quickly to restore 53 acres of cropland back to native prairie grasses and forbs on the site in June 2014 before this appropriation ends. Portions of the Gahlon land are infested with invasive trees and non-native brome grass that must be removed to ensure successful prairie and forb restoration, including a robust mix of wildflowers for pollinator habitat. DU requests to amend the budget to shift \$50,000 from Easement Acquisition to Restoration Contracts to allow restoration of this site due to more restoration needs and higher costs than envisioned in 2010 when the budget was developed. Due to the late date, seed availability is limited and prices are high, and contractors busy with other work. Cost estimates include up to \$1,000/acre for 53 acres of prairie grass/forb seed/seeding/weed control plus \$10,000 for invasive volunteer tree removal and \$6,000 for plow/disk site preparation prior to seeding, \$5,000 for small wetland restoration, and \$6,000 for invasive brush and tree removal along prairie restoration sites along Lake Christina as necessary and as time permits to ensure a successful prairie restoration with excellent pollinator habitat and to remove invasive tree seed sources adjacent to the restoration site. Also, \$2,000, is shifted from Professional Services for Acquisition to Professional Services for Restoration for a consultant to assist with prairie restoration implementation and initial evaluation. Following the issue of a \$9,950 contract for tree removal from the prairie restoration fields (contractor on site now), only \$20,050 remains in our Restoration budget without this amendment, which simply won't be nearly enough to get the prairie and wetland restoration work done. We are striving to restore the site to a robust mix of prairie grasses and forbs that provide excellent pollinator habitat, and have a Request For Bids out now that is due back to me on June 3 that allow seeding to start on June 6. Additional invasive brush and trees need to be removed from around the prairie restoration site too to limit the seed source on the property and prevent tree re-infestation on the restored prairie. Projected estimated restoration costs are as follows (each is an "up-to" amount):
\$10,000 Initial tree removal from prairie restoration sites (ongoing now);
\$ 6,000 Plow/Disk/Roll/Pack Seedbed;
\$53,000 Seed/Seeding/Post-seeding weed control for robust prairie grass/forb pollinator seed mix ;
\$ 5,000 Small Wetland Restoration (sediment and tile drain removal);
\$ 6,000 Invasive brush and tree removal along edges of prairie restoration fields;
\$80,000 Total Estimated contract costs of restoration.

Final Report Summary: Of the 101 acres permanently protected by DU conservation easements funded through this grant, 53 acres on the Gahlon easement on Lake Christina were previously cropped and restoration was necessary and possible, and the landowner was agreeable. Thus, DU restored 53 acres of previously cultivated row-crop land back to native prairie vegetation including a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs. The area includes restoration of one small prairie wetland

where sediment was removed, and two other existing wetlands where invasive trees were removed. A grant balance of \$19,158 remains for this Activity #2 because the costs of restoration activities that were feasible during the grant period did not require full expenditure of the budget for Activity #2, and because the grant period ended on June 30, 2014 before some additional restoration work could occur. The landowner will be responsible for those additional costs, along with ongoing management of the land to maintain the restoration.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Conservation easement land protection deals involve private landowners, and publicity of those legal arrangements is a sensitive issue. DU will report accomplishments through LCCMR website and in DU publications such as our Living Lakes progress reports.

Status as of January 2012: No information dissemination has occurred about this grant yet.

Status as of July 2012: No information dissemination has occurred about this grant yet.

Status as of January 2013: No information dissemination has occurred about this grant yet.

Status as of July 2013: No information dissemination has occurred about this grant yet.

Status as of January 2014: No information dissemination has occurred about this grant yet.

Final Report Summary: Conservation easement land protection deals involve private landowners, and publicity of those legal arrangements is a sensitive issue. DU will report accomplishments through the LCCMR website and in DU publications such as our Living Lakes Initiative progress reports.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 100,000	Staff to negotiate easements and administer grant. DU conservation staff will conduct landowner outreach and negotiate conservation easements with private landowners (0.35 FTE/year, or 0.7 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits). DU conservation program manager Jon Schneider to administer grant and manage and coordinate all grant activities including grant reporting (0.1 FTE/year, or 0.2 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits).
Service Contracts	\$ 80,000	Upland and small wetland restoration contracts, using competitive selection process.
Easement Acquisition:	\$ 290,000	Conservation easement purchase.
Professional Services for Acq:	\$ 24,000	Appraisals, baseline reports, surveys, etc.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 6,000	In-state mileage and lodging.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 500,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: Approximately 0.9 FTE over two years, or 0.45 per year for two years.

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Ducks Unlimited	\$ 71,000	\$ 73,302	DU private funds for staff and travel expense (\$27,802), private landowner restoration expense (\$3,500) and private landowner donations to DU/WAT to endow future easement stewardship monitoring/enforcement expenses (\$42,000).
State	\$ 0	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 71,000	\$ 73,302	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: DU is a member of the Habitat Conservation Partnership. DU is not closely working with other partners to secure DU conservation easements, but DU routinely refers easement inquiries on other lakes to the Minnesota Land Trust, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Minnesota DNR.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The Minnesota DNR has a goal of managing 1,800 shallow lakes throughout the state. DU's goal is to improve 400 managed shallow lakes, and has further prioritized 15 shallow lakes for conservation easements to protect shoreland and shorelines. DU strives to work with all landowners on these selected lakes over the years to come to protect all the private land around them, and will hold and annually monitor conservation easements in perpetuity.

C. Spending History: For DU conservation easements on shallow lakes.

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$250,000, ML 2005, 1 st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 11, Subd. 5(a).	\$200,000, ML 2007, Chapter 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4b.	\$150,000, ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(c)	\$250,000, ML 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e2c3c	\$75,000, M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f3c
OHF				\$135,873, ML 2009, Article I, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(b)	

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: A list of 12 potential conservation easements investigated on four priority shallow lakes is part of Attachment A.

IX. MAP(S): Maps of conservation easements secured are provided to the LCCMR.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports were submitted February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013, and February 1, 2014. This is the Final Report.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: Shallow Lake Conservation Easements								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Subdivision 04j3c								
Project Manager: Jon Schneider								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: Three Years thru June 30, 2014								
Date of Report: August 14, 2014								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget revised June 10, 2014	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget revised June 10, 2014	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Acquire Conservation Easements			Restore Protected Land, if/where needed				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)							0	
DU conservation staff time to conduct landowner outreach and negotiate conservation easements with private landowners, and to plan and implement restoration of lands protected (0.35 FTE/year, or 0.7 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits).	71,000	35,767	35,233	9,000	9,000	0	80,000	35,233
DU conservation program managers to administer grant and manage and coordinate all grant activities including grant reporting (0.1 FTE/year, or 0.2 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits).	20,000	20,000	0				20,000	0
Service Contracts Competitively selected restoration contracts with private contractors to seed cropland to native plants and restore small wetlands where necessary, etc. Estimated at up to \$1,000/acre for 53 acres of prairie grass/forb seed/seeding/spraying plus \$10,000 for invasive volunteer tree removal and \$6,000 for plow/disk site preparation, \$5,000 for small wetland restoration, and \$6,000 for invasive brush and tree removal along Lake Christina as necessary and as time permits.				80,000	61,391	18,609	80,000	18,609
Easement Acquisition	290,000	255,190	34,810				290,000	34,810
Professional Services for acquisition appraisals, baseline documentation reports, and other professional services for new easements. Estimated at \$8,000 per easement for approximately two easements. Includes \$2,000 for consultant to help oversee prairie restoration and initial evaluation.	22,000	22,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	24,000	0
Travel expenses in Minnesota In-state mileage and lodging for conservation easement outreach and negotiation over two years.	5,000	1,211	3,789	1,000	451	549	6,000	4,338
COLUMN TOTAL	\$408,000	\$334,169	\$73,831	\$92,000	\$72,842	\$19,158	\$500,000	\$92,990

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition-Restoration (Easement) List**

Project Title: Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Subdivision 04j3c

Project Manager Name: Jon Schneider

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000

Date of Report: August 15, 2014

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	Approximate # of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	Lake Christina - Strohmeir	46.073	-95.746	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	36	0.25	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, landowner declined to proceed.
2	Lake Christina - Papenheim	46.105	-95.719	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	175	1	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, appraisal completed, landowner declined valuation/offer.
3	Lake Christina - DCLC	46.089	-95.697	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	475	3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Purchase, appraisal completed, landowner declined to proceed.
4	Lake Christina - Rossing	46.087	-95.731	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	36	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, appraisal completed, landowner declined valuation/offer.
5	Lake Christina - Palmquist	46.07	-95.757	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	144	0.75	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, landowner not interested at this time.
6	Fish Lake - Kauller #3	45.401	-95.079	Stearns	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	75	0.25	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, landowner considering options.
7	Cedar Lake - Radunz	44.98	-94.444	Meeker	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	31	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchased easement appraised and successfully closed and recorded.
8	Geneva Lake - Cook Family Trust	43.818	-93.251	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, brush land, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	66	0.5	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowners in a Family Trust	Purchase, initial contact attempted, landowner not returning calls.
9	Geneva Lake - Geneva Lake, Inc.	43.786	-93.277	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	5	0.25	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Purchase, landowner not interested at this time.

10	Geneva Lake - Waseca GC	43.786	-93.272	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	10	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Purchase, landowner not interested at this time.
11	Geneva Lake - Geneva Point Club	43.81	-93.259	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	20	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Purchase, landowner not interested at this time.
12	Lake Christina - Gahlon Land	46.09962	-95.76433	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via purchased conservation easement	70	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchased easement appraised and successfully closed and recorded.
<p>NOTE: This preliminary list contains 11 possible easements on four priority shallow lakes on which potential DU conservation easements may be secured from private landowners (not from institutions or non-profit orgs) in an effort to eventually protect all shoreland around each lake given the level of agency management of the lake, its importance to waterfowl, and threat of future shoreland subdivision and development. Locations of additional easements to be acquired on these and other key shallow lakes have not yet been identified as investigations and negotiations funded through this grant have yet to begin, whereas these specific easement possibilities have been identified via previous grant-funded easement technical assistance outreach efforts. In addition to working to develop the conservation easements listed above, DU land protection staff will also work with new private landowners on these and other priority shallow lakes to develop new conservation easement for future protection. Specific locations of additional easement projects on these and other priority shallow lakes managed for waterfowl will be provided via grant work plan amendment request as they become known once viable easement deals develop but before they are closed.</p>												
<p>The following is a list of 15 DU priority shallow lakes shown on the accompanying map on which DU may add parcels for conservation easements via future work program amendment request:</p>												
1	Lake Christina - unidentified	46.103	-95.765	Douglas & Grant	shallow lake shoreland	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
2	Fish Lake - unidentified	45.401	-95.079	Stearns	shallow lake shoreland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
3	Towner Lake - unidentified	45.764	-96.071	Grant	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
4	Hassel Lake - unidentified	45.39	-95.569	Swift	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
5	Moore Lake - unidentified	45.382	-95.541	Swift	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
6	Simon Lake - unidentified	45.419	-95.325	Pope & Swift	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
7	Cedar Lake - unidentified	44.98	-94.444	Meeker	shallow lake shoreland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request

8	Smith Lake - unidentified	45.076	-94.126	Wright	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
9	Malardi Lake - unidentified	45.081	-93.891	Wright	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
10	Pelican Lake - unidentified	45.228	-93.76	Wright	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
11	Geneva Lake - unidentified.	43.786	-93.277	Freeborn	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
12	Rice Lake - unidentified	47.726	-94.915	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
13	George Lake - unidentified	47.718	-94.929	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
14	Little Puposky Lake - unid.	47.709	-94.942	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
15	Puposky Lake - unidentified	47.692	-94.939	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request







2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Wetlands Reserve Program (3d)
PROJECT MANAGER: Jon Schneider
AFFILIATION: Ducks Unlimited
MAILING ADDRESS: 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Alexandria, MN 56308
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WEBSITE: www.ducks.org
FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: ML 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3d

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$775,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Most of Minnesota's prairie wetlands and nearly all of our native prairie grasslands have been converted to agriculture or other uses. Restoring and protecting native prairie and prairie wetland complexes is a priority for the state as outlined in Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan. The federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an important voluntary conservation easement program available to landowners, with an objective to restore and protect wetlands and adjacent upland habitats to benefit migratory birds and other wildlife, and improve water quality.

To accelerate the WRP in Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited (DU) partnered with the USDA's NRCS to provide technical assistance through eight grant-funded wetland consultants contracted to help NRCS promote and secure new WRP applications and plan and implement restorations on WRP easements secured in previous years. In addition, DU provided engineering services to assist NRCS with survey and preliminary design of two larger wetland restorations requiring complex water control structures to restore wetland hydrology.

Through this grant, DU consultants promoted WRP to 955 private landowners, secured/completed/submitted 83 WRP applications, developed or modified 110 conservation plans to facilitate restoration of WRP easements, provided engineering assistance to design or manage construction of wetland restorations on 19 WRP easement involving 206 wetland basins affecting 462 wetland acres, and provided biological assistance to help restore an additional 235 wetland basins affecting 1,546 wetland acres on WRP easements. In addition, Ducks Unlimited engineers completed a preliminary engineering report for 4,000-acre Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County to guide future landowner outreach efforts, and completed engineering design plans for restoration of 100-acre Rasmus Lake wetland project in Kandiyohi County. This technical assistance helped NRCS close 36 new WRP easements at a federal cost of \$4,222,827 to protect 3,133 acres in Minnesota during this grant period.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Ducks Unlimited consultants promoted the WRP through SWCD newsletters, articles in local newspapers, and in an article written by DU volunteers in the spring 2013 DU state newsletter Cattails. Two DU consultants also gave a PowerPoint slide presentation on the WRP partnership with NRCS at the February 2012 DU state convention.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: 10/6/2014
Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Project Title: HCP VII - Wetlands Reserve Program (3d)

Project Manager: Jon Schneider
Affiliation: Ducks Unlimited Inc.
Address: 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE
City: Alexandria **State:** MN **Zip Code:** 56308
Telephone Number: (320) 762-9916
Email Address: jschneider@ducks.org
Web Address: http://www.ducks.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	775,000
	Amount Spent \$:	<u>775,000</u>
	Balance \$:	0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3d

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Wetlands Reserve Program Technical Assistance

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Most of Minnesota's prairie wetlands and nearly all of our native prairie grasslands have been converted to agriculture or other uses. Restoring and protecting native prairie and prairie wetland complexes is a priority for the state as outlined in Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan. The federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an important voluntary conservation easement program available to landowners, with an objective to restore and protect wetlands and adjacent upland habitats to benefit migratory birds and other wildlife, and improve water quality.

To accelerate the WRP in Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited (DU) partnered with the USDA's NRCS to provide technical assistance through eight grant-funded wetland consultants contracted to help NRCS promote and secure new WRP applications and plan and implement restorations on WRP easements secured in previous years. In addition, DU provided engineering services to assist NRCS with survey and preliminary design of two larger wetland restorations requiring complex water control structures to restore wetland hydrology.

Through this grant, DU consultants promoted WRP to 955 private landowners, secured/completed/submitted 83 WRP applications, developed or modified 110 conservation plans to facilitate restoration of WRP easements, provided engineering assistance to design or manage construction of wetland restorations on 19 WRP easement involving 206 wetland basins affecting 462 wetland acres, and provided biological assistance to help restore an additional 235 wetland basins affecting 1,546 wetland acres on WRP easements. In addition, Ducks Unlimited engineers completed a preliminary engineering report for 4,000-acre Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County to guide future landowner outreach efforts, and completed engineering design plans for restoration of 100-acre Rasmus Lake wetland project in Kandiyohi County. This technical assistance helped NRCS close 36 new WRP easements at a federal cost of \$4,222,827 to protect 3,133 acres in Minnesota during this grant period.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 2012: DU and NRCS began work on this grant in November 2011. Seven wetland specialist consultants hired under contract through our 2010 appropriation continued working under contract for DU through this 2011 appropriation to help NRCS submit WRP applications, complete easements, develop restoration plans, and implement restorations. Through the end of December 2011, contract specialists promoted WRP to 28 private landowners, developed and modified 25 WRP easement conservation plans to guide restoration of WRP easements, and oversaw the construction and installation of 56 wetland restoration water control structures on WRP easements. No DU engineering has been started during the first six months of this grant period.

Project Status as of July 2012: From the period November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, Ducks Unlimited's contract specialists promoted WRP to 420 private landowners; secured/completed/submitted 66 WRP applications; developed and modified 55 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 6 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 98 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also reviewed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and Rasmus Lake restoration project in Kandiyohi County, and began survey and engineering work to design the restoration of the basin in FY13 through this grant. Meanwhile, NRCS closed 16 new WRP easements at a cost of \$2,319,122 that protects 1,773 acres within HCP Project Areas in Minnesota.

Project Status as of January 2013: From the period November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2013, Ducks Unlimited's contract specialists promoted WRP to 613 private landowners;

secured/completed/submitted 76 WRP applications; developed and modified 139 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 9 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 155 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also surveyed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and began restoration engineering design work on both Crooked Lake and the Rasmus Lake restoration project in Kandiyohi County. Meanwhile, NRCS closed 17 new WRP easements since July 1, 2012 at a federal cost of \$1,393,899 that protects 404 upland acres and 794 wetland acres within HCP Project Areas in Minnesota. Since beginning this grant, NRCS has spent \$3,713,021 to permanently protect 2,971 acres in HCP project areas.

Project Status as of July 2013: From the period November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, Ducks Unlimited's contract specialists have promoted WRP to 955 private landowners; secured/completed/submitted 83 WRP applications; developed and modified 174 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 15 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 192 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also surveyed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and continued restoration engineering design work on Crooked Lake and completed engineering design work on the Rasmus Lake restoration project in Kandiyohi County. Meanwhile, NRCS has closed 36 new WRP easements at a federal cost of \$3,985,375 that protects 3,130 in Minnesota since beginning this grant.

Project Status as of January 2014: From the period November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, Ducks Unlimited contract specialists have promoted WRP to 955 private landowners; secured/completed/submitted 83 WRP applications; developed and modified 174 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 15 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 192 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also surveyed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and continue their engineering design work for a water control structure to restore Crooked Lake while also completed engineering design plans for restoration of the Rasmus Lake project in Kandiyohi County. NRCS has closed 36 new WRP easements at a federal cost of \$3,985,375 that protects 3,130 in Minnesota since beginning this grant. DU will complete the engineering work on both Crooked Lake and Rasmus Lake in winter and spring 2014, and will complete the administration of this grant by June 30, 2014 with the small amount of grant funds remaining. DU requests a budget amendment to move \$4,000 from Travel to Personnel. Approved by the LCCMR – 3-12-14.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Provide Technical Assistance to NRCS to help Implement the WRP in Minnesota.

Description: DU will use grant funds to contract with approximately six (6) FTE wetland restoration specialist consultants to provide technical assistance to the USDA-NRCS and private landowners to help enroll 2,500 acres of private land in new Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements. DU staff may also provide engineering services to assist NRCS with survey, design, and construction management on one or more larger restorations that require complex water control structures. DU will administer this grant and coordinate WRP partnership activities. The USDA-NRCS will fund the associated easement and restoration costs. The contracted wetland restoration specialist consultants will implement all aspects of the WRP program that will result in lands being enrolled and wetlands and uplands restored under the WRP. This project will be delivered throughout the prairie Minnesota.

Securing a WRP easement with a willing seller typically takes a year or more from the time a landowner expresses interest, and the application and easement process involves many steps. Once an easement is closed, NRCS begins and funds the restoration of wetland and upland habitats within the easement, a process that takes 2-3 years to fully complete. Often, WRP easements are combined with RIM easements to leverage state and federal resources. All restoration details are documented in an

NRCS restoration plan for each easement. This complicated federal WRP easement application and restoration process relies heavily on the assistance and expertise of specialists contracted by DU, which have been supported by Trust Fund grants since 2005.

The contracted DU wetland specialists funded through this grant will make it possible for USDA-NRCS to secure WRP easements on approximately 2,500 acres in prairie areas of Minnesota at an estimated cost of approximately \$4 million to NRCS. Once secured under a WRP easement, NRCS will restore wetlands and grasslands in future years. Restoring these wetlands and native prairie grasslands is critical to maintaining continued federal funding for the WRP in Minnesota into the future, and will significantly improve and expand existing blocks of habitat and help improve downstream water quality.

Grant funds will be used by DU for approximately six (6) FTE contracted wetland restoration specialist consultants (\$695,000), for DU staff engineering services to USDA-NRCS (\$70,000), and for DU grant administration and partnership coordination that includes managing contractors and coordinating with USDA-NRCS field, area, and state office personnel (\$30,000). NRCS alone does not have enough technical assistance to implement the WRP at the accelerated levels described in this proposal without the technical assistance help provided by DU contracted wetland restoration specialist consultants.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$ 775,000
	Amount Spent:	<u>\$775,000</u>
	Balance:	\$0

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2014

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Technical and engineering assistance provided by six (6) FTE contracted specialists and DU engineering to help USDA-NRCS secure WRP easements. Ongoing technical assistance will include landowner contacts, WRP applications submitted, easement restoration plans submitted, wetland restoration designs, and restoration project oversight/management.	June 30, 2014	\$ 775,000
2. Secure 2,500 acres of new WRP Easements by USDA-NRCS	June 30, 2014	\$ 0

Activity Status as of January 2012: DU and NRCS began work on this grant in November 2011. Seven wetland specialist consultants hired under contract through our 2010 appropriation continued working under contract for DU through this 2011 appropriation to help NRC S submit WRP applications, complete easements, develop restoration plans, and implement restorations. Through the end of December 2011, contract specialists promoted WRP to 28 private landowners, developed and modified 25 WRP easement conservation plans to guide restoration of WRP easements, and oversaw the construction and installation of 56 wetland restoration water control structures on WRP easements. No DU engineering has occurred yet this grant period, nor has NRCS closed any new WRP easements.

Activity Status as of July 2012: From the period November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, Ducks Unlimited's contract specialists promoted WRP to 420 private landowners; secured/completed/submitted 66 WRP applications; developed and modified 55 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 6 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 98 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also reviewed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and Rasmus Lake restoration project in Kandiyohi County, and began survey and engineering work to design the restoration of the basin in FY13 through this grant. Meanwhile, NRCS closed 16 new WRP easements at a cost of \$2,319,122 that protects 1,773 acres within HCP Project Areas in Minnesota.

Activity Status as of January 2013: From the period November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2013, Ducks Unlimited's contract specialists promoted WRP to 613 private landowners; secured/completed/submitted 76 WRP applications; developed and modified 139 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 9 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 155 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also surveyed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and began restoration engineering design work on both Crooked Lake and the Rasmus Lake restoration project in Kandiyohi County. Meanwhile, NRCS closed 17 new WRP easements since July 1, 2012 at a federal cost of \$1,393,899 that protects 404 upland acres and 794 wetland acres within HCP Project Areas in Minnesota. Since beginning this grant, NRCS has spent \$3,713,021 to permanently protect 2,971 acres in HCP project areas.

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Activity Status as of January 2014: From the period November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, Ducks Unlimited's contract specialists have promoted WRP to 955 private landowners; secured/completed/submitted 83 WRP applications; developed and modified 174 WRP conservation plans to assist with restoration of WRP easements, designed 15 water control structures for wetland restorations and oversaw the construction of 192 water control structures on WRP easements. All of this work was done within HCP Project Areas. DU engineers also surveyed the large Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County and continue their engineering design work for a water control structure to restore Crooked Lake while also completed engineering design plans for restoration of the Rasmus Lake project in Kandiyohi County. NRCS has closed 36 new WRP easements at a federal cost of \$3,985,375 that protects 3,130 in Minnesota since beginning this grant. DU will complete the engineering work on both Crooked Lake and Rasmus Lake in winter and spring 2014, and will complete the administration of this grant by June 30, 2014 with the small amount of grant funds remaining. DU requests a budget amendment to move \$4,000 from Travel to Personnel. Approved by the LCCMR – 3-12-14.

Final Report Summary: Through this grant, DU consultants promoted WRP to 955 private landowners, secured/completed/submitted 83 WRP applications, developed or modified 110 conservation plans to facilitate restoration of WRP easements, provided engineering assistance to design or manage construction of wetland restorations on 19 WRP easement involving 206 wetland basins affecting 462 wetland acres, and provided biological assistance to help restore an additional 235 wetland basins affecting 1,546 wetland acres on WRP easements. In addition, Ducks Unlimited engineers completed a preliminary engineering report for 4,000-acre Crooked Lake restoration project in Douglas County to guide future landowner outreach efforts, and completed engineering design plans for restoration of 100-acre Rasmus Lake wetland project in Kandiyohi County. This technical assistance helped NRCS close 36 new WRP easements at a federal cost of \$4,222,827 to protect 3,133 acres in Minnesota during this grant period.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: DU consultants, the USDA's NRCS, and SWCD's will periodically issue news releases about WRP sign-ups and the success of the program. Consultants may speak at DU's Minnesota state convention, and DU volunteers may feature information about the WRP in the electronic DU state newsletter "Cattails".

Status as of January 2012: None

Status as of July 2012: DU consultants, the USDA's NRCS, and SWCD's periodically issued news releases about WRP sign-ups and the success of the program. Two consultants also presented at DU's Minnesota state convention in February 2012.

Status as of January 2013: DU consultants continue to help promote WRP through SWCD newsletters and other articles in local newspapers.

Status as of July 2013: DU consultants continue to help promote WRP through SWCD newsletters and other articles in local newspapers, and an article on the WRP was featured in the spring 2013 DU newsletter Cattails.

Status as of January 2014: DU consultants continue to help promote WRP through SWCD newsletters and other articles in local newspapers.

Final Report Summary: DU consultants promoted the WRP through SWCD newsletters, articles in local newspapers, and an article written by DU volunteers in the spring 2013 DU state newsletter Cattails. Two DU consultants also gave a PowerPoint slide presentation on the WRP partnership with NRCS at the February 2012 DU state convention.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 94,000	DU staff to administer grant and engineer projects.
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 675,000	Approximately six (6) FTE wetland restoration specialist contract consultants to provide technical assistance to NRCS over two years to process WRP applications and plan restorations.
Service Contracts	\$	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 2,000	GPS survey equipment rental.
Capital Equipment over \$3,500:	\$	
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$	
Easement Acquisition:	\$	
Professional Services for Acq:	\$	
Printing:	\$	
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 4,000	In-state mileage for grant admin and engineering.
Other:	\$	
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 775,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: n/a

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: n/a

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: Approx. 12 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
USDA NRCS federal funds	\$4,000,000	\$4,222,827	USDA NRCS easement payments and contribution agreement w/DU
Ducks Unlimited private funds	\$ 0	\$ 15,000	DU staff personnel and travel cost
State	\$ 0	\$ 0	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$4,000,000	\$4,237,827	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Ducks Unlimited is a member of the Habitat Conservation Partnership. Jon Schneider from Ducks Unlimited and a representative from USDA NRCS will be the Co-Managers of this project. WRP easements will be secured as stand alone and in conjunction with Reinvest In Minnesota Reserve program easements administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and funded through State Capital Investment (Bonding) funding. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other conservation partners also may assist the implementation of the WRP.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The USDA' NRCS estimates that \$4,000,000 will be spent to acquire WRP easements on approximately 2,500 acres as a result of the technical assistance provided by the wetland restoration consultants contracted through this grant. Jon Schneider from Ducks Unlimited and a representative from USDA NRCS will be the Co-Project Managers. WRP easements will be secured as stand alone and in conjunction with Reinvest In Minnesota Reserve program easements administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and funded through State Capital Investment (Bonding) funding. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other partners assist the implementation of the WRP

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$450,000, ML 2005, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5a.	\$350,000, ML 2007, Chapter 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4b.	\$267,500, ML 2008, Chapt. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3c3d.	\$420,000, ML 2009, Chapt. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e3d.	\$350,000, M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f3d.

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: This grant funds technical assistance only. No actual acquisitions or restorations are being directly funded with ENRTF grant funds, and all USDA NRCS WRP easement locations are confidential due to federal privacy act regulations.

IX. MAP(S): This grant funds technical assistance only. No actual acquisitions or restorations are being directly funded with ENRTF grant funds, and all USDA NRCS WRP easement locations are confidential due to federal privacy act regulations.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: n/a

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, February 1, 2013, August 1, 2013, and February 1, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 15, 2014.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects						
Project Title: Wetlands Reserve Program Technical Assistance						
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3d						
Project Manager: Jon Schneider (Ducks Unlimited)						
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$775,000						
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years ending June 30, 2014						
Date of Report: October 6, 2014						
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget revised 3-12-14	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	Amount Spent	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Provide Technical Assistance to NRCS					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)						
DU professional bio-engineering staff to survey and design one or more complex water control structures for NRCS. 0.3 FTE/year over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits.	60,000	60,000	0	60,000	60,000	0
DU conservation program manager to administer grant and manage grant activities. 0.2 FTE/year over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits.	34,000	34,000	0	34,000	34,000	0
Professional/Technical Contracts Approximately six (6) FTE wetland restoration specialist contract consultants to provide technical assistance to NRCS over two years to process WRP applications and plan restorations.	675,000	675,000	0	675,000	675,000	0
Service contracts						
Equipment/Tools/Supplies GPS survey equip rental, etc.	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0
Capital equipment over \$3,500						
Fee Title Acquisition						
Easement Acquisition						
Professional Services for Acquisition						
Printing						
Travel expenses in Minnesota In-state mileage and lodging for DU engineering survey and design staff, and grant management/coordination.	4,000	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	0
Other						
COLUMN TOTAL	\$775,000	\$775,000	\$0	\$775,000	\$775,000	\$0

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries (4a)

PROJECT MANAGER: Eran Sandquist

AFFILIATION: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS: 410 Lincoln Avenue South

CITY/STATE/ZIP: South Haven, MN 55382

PHONE: 763.242.1273

E-MAIL: esandquist@pheasantsforever.org

WEBSITE: www.pheasantsforever.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4a

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$434,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The objective of this work plan was to maximize benefits of fee-title acquisition by acquiring parcels where the footprint of the strategic acquisition is larger than the acquisition boundary itself. For example, the acquisition of a 40-acre WMA addition that allows for the restoration of an 80-acre drained wetland would bring benefits beyond the subject property boundary. This work plan set forth to protect and restore 141-acres of priority wildlife habitat (86 acres with ENRTF funds and 55 acres with non-state matching funds) falling within the project boundaries outlined by HCP. Despite numerous attempts, we were unsuccessful in fulfilling the requirements of this work plan. Some quality projects fell through due to unwilling sellers (e.g. Minnkota WMA Addition). Other projects considered under this work plan were completed using other funding mechanisms due to the high price tag. After consulting and coming to concurrence with LCCMR staff (please see the November 30, 2013 work plan update), it was decided that we not partially fund projects under this work plan with multiple state funding sources (e.g. Outdoor Heritage Fund). Thus, Pheasants Forever is returning the full \$434,000 appropriated to this work plan back to the ENRTF to be used for other worthy projects.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

There are no results under this work plan to disseminate.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Status Update:	10/13/2014	
Date of Next Status Update:	Final Report	
Date of Work Plan Approval:	8/11/2011	
Project Completion Date:	6/30/2014	Is this an amendment request? _____

Project Title: HCP VII - WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries (4a)

Project Manager: Eran Sandquist
Affiliation: Pheasants Forever Inc
Address: 410 Lincoln Avenue S
City: South Haven **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55382
Telephone Number: (763) 242-1273
Email Address: esandquist@pheasantsforever.org
Web Address: www.pheasantsforever.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Lac qui Parle, LeSeur, Rice

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	434,000
	Amount Spent \$:	0
	Balance \$:	434,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4a

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII – 4a – WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

The objective of this work plan was to maximize benefits of fee-title acquisition by acquiring parcels where the footprint of the strategic acquisition is larger than the acquisition boundary itself. For example, the acquisition of a 40-acre WMA addition that allows for the restoration of an 80-acre drained wetland would bring benefits beyond the subject property boundary. This work plan set forth to protect and restore 141-acres of priority wildlife habitat (86 acres with ENRTF funds and 55 acres with non-state matching funds) falling within the project boundaries outlined by HCP. Despite numerous attempts, we were unsuccessful in fulfilling the requirements of this work plan. Some quality projects fell through due to unwilling sellers (e.g. Minnkota WMA Addition). Other projects considered under this work plan were completed using other funding mechanisms due to the high price tag. After consulting and coming to concurrence with LCCMR staff (please see the November 30, 2013 work plan update), it was decided that we not partially fund projects under this work plan with multiple state funding sources (e.g. Outdoor Heritage Fund). Thus, Pheasants Forever is returning the full \$434,000 appropriated to this work plan back to the ENRTF to be used for other worthy projects.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (November 30, 2011): Rising land prices and strong commodity prices are a major factor in the agricultural real estate market today. We have seen land prices increase in these areas, sometimes as much as 2% a month. Because of this, landowners are hesitant to sell knowing their investment in land is easily outgaining the stock markets. The strong markets will force NGO's and other government entities purchasing lands in fee-title to move quickly and efficiently to close deals.

We have started conversations with all three landowners and have completed an appraisal on one property. Depending on negotiations, one appraisal and subsequent acquisition will be all that is required to spend grant funds and complete the project

Project Status as of (May 31, 2012): Rising land prices and strong commodity prices continue to be major factors in the agricultural real estate market today. Land prices continue to rise and many counties are experiencing record high sale prices. Landowners are looking to get top dollar for their properties and in some cases appraisals are not able to keep up with current land sales.

An offer was made on the Minnkota property and was rejected because of differences in value. PF has started working on the Sanborn Lake WMA parcel.

Project Status as of (November 30, 2012): We have been largely unsuccessful at securing the identified high priority parcels. Our attempt at securing the second parcel was unsuccessful not because a purchase price couldn't be agreed upon, but because of the lack of available funding. Land prices continued to rise which resulted in a certified appraised value almost twice as much as funding is available in this entire grant (both match and ENRTF).

We will try to pursue the last remaining parcel on the list.

Project Status as of (May 31, 2013): We are happy to report that PF and the owners of the Erin Prairie WPA Addition parcel have come to an agreement and have entered into a purchase agreement. We will be diligently moving forward towards closing.

Project Status as of (November 30, 2013): Although we were able to close on the Erin Prairie WPA parcel, we were not able to use ENRTF funding because our matching funds for the project fell through. PF utilized OHF funds to complete the project. We did discuss possibility of using both ENRTF and OHF funds to complete the project, but concluded intermingling the funds would require more administrative work than we felt public funding should pay for.

We are continuing to look for replacement properties that meet the requirements of this grant and will request an amendment to the work plan when the best opportunity presents itself.

Project Status as of (May 31, 2014): A unique property meeting the grant criteria was identified and an offer has been made. We are waiting for a response from the seller. It is possible to close on this tract prior to the end of the grant period. We will ask for an accomplishment amendment only if the transaction can feasibly close before the June 30th deadline.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Fee-Title Acquisition

Description: Within the designated HCP work areas, Pheasants Forever will acquire 86 acres in fee title and restore using ENRTF funds (an additional 55 acres will be acquired and restored with \$275,000 in non-state funds) with the footprint of each parcel larger than the legal property boundaries of the acquisitions. Acquired tracts will be transferred to the DNR as part of the Wildlife Management Area system or to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Waterfowl Production Areas.

In addition to the footprint requirement, all acquisitions will provide public access and will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Protect native remnant prairie.
- Protect wetland/prairie complexes.
- Adjacent to permanently protected lands and will provide connectivity.
- Will enable the restoration of croplands to wetland/prairie complexes.
- Will enable the restoration of adjacent permanently protected lands.

PF will work with DNR and/or USFWS land managers to develop and implement restoration and management plans that will meet all ENRTF requirements. Restoration of the acquired tracts will be funded with ENRTF grant dollars in this proposal. County board approval will be obtained for all acquisitions before closing and will have DNR Commissioner approval in writing. PF will record a notice of funding restriction on the acquired parcel and will complete land acquisition, transaction costs, and future costs analysis reports for all acquisitions.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 434,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 434,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquire approximately 86 acres fee-title	June 30, 2013	\$ 394,000
2. Restore approximately 86 acres (acquired acres)	June 30, 2013	\$ 40,000

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2011):

Tract Name - Erin Prairie WPA Addition: The landowners have been contacted. Appraisal will be completed if Minnkota and Lake Sanborn projects fall through.

Tract Name - Lake Sanborn WMA: The landowners have been contacted. Appraisal will be completed if the Minnkota project falls through.

Tract Name - Minnkota WMA Addition: An appraisal has been completed on the property and landowners have been notified of the fair market value. The value for the property was much higher than anticipated requiring PF to secure additional funds if landowner agrees to a sale.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2012):

Tract Name - Erin Prairie WPA Addition: Conversations have started with the landowner on starting the appraisal process.

Tract Name - Lake Sanborn WMA: Strong farmland prices continue to plague our ability to secure parcels. Because of high land prices the landowners decided to sell the entire parcel, changing the acreage from 160 acres to 217 acres. This acreage change combined with land prices brought the total appraised value significantly higher than what is in the budget for this appropriation. It would be nearly impossible to raise enough non-state matching funds to complete this project. PF may look into using our OHF appropriations to purchase this property.

Tract Name - Minnkota WMA Addition: PF's offer was rejected by the landowner. The project was put in abeyance.

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2012):

Tract Name - Erin Prairie WPA Addition: The appraisal process was initiated and we are hoping to make an offer to the landowner in the early part of 2013.

Tract Name - Lake Sanborn WMA: Because of the unanticipated high appraised value of this property, PF utilized OHF funds to successfully secure this tract. The final acreage for the parcel totaled 217 acres and was purchased for \$1,270,000.

Tract Name - Minnkota WMA Addition: Another contact was made with the landowner. The project is still in abeyance.

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2013):

Tract Name - Erin Prairie WPA Addition: An appraisal was completed on the parcel in the spring of 2013. The landowner recently accepted an offer from PF and both parties have entered into a purchase agreement. We are finalizing the funding package and are hoping to complete the transaction before the end of fiscal year.

Tract Name - Lake Sanborn WMA: Completed with other state funds not associated with this appropriation.

Tract Name - Minnkota WMA Addition: The project is in abeyance.

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2013):

Tract Name - Erin Prairie WPA Addition: Completed with other state funds not associated with this appropriation.

Tract Name - Lake Sanborn WMA: Completed with other state funds not associated with this appropriation.

Tract Name - Minnkota WMA Addition: The project is in abeyance.

Activity Status as of (May 31 2014):

No changes since last update.

Final Report Summary: All projects pursued under this agreement either fell through (fee-title acquisition requires a willing seller) or could only be partially purchased with the appropriated ENRTF funding provided under this work plan. After discussion with partners and LCCMR staff, it was

concluded to use other funding sources to accomplish the above parcels to avoid partially funding a project with multiple state funding sources. Thus, Pheasants Forever is turning back the entire \$434,000 to the ENRTF as the proposed projects either did not have a willing seller or the acquisition project was completed under a different program.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: All update and final reports will be available at www.mnhabitatcorridors.org . In addition, PF will work with LCCMR staff to promote accomplishments and projects completed through this partnership in the media. We will forward any media coverage to LCCMR staff for distribution.

Status as of (November 30, 2011): To date no accomplishments have been made for dissemination.

Status as of (May 31, 2012): To date no accomplishments have been made for dissemination.

Status as of (November 30, 2012): To date no accomplishments have been made for dissemination.

Status as of (May 31, 2013): To date no accomplishments have been made for dissemination.

Status as of (November 30, 2013): To date no accomplishments have been made for dissemination.

Status as of (May 31, 2014): To date no accomplishments have been made for dissemination.

Final Report Summary: This work plan produced no accomplishments to disseminate.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 25,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (.18 FTE Total (1 yr) - 72% salary, 28% benefits)
		Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator (\$10,000) .05 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)
		Regional Biologists: (\$10,000) .08 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)
		Grants and Contracts Specialist (\$5,000) .05 FTE – (contract review e.g. purchase agreements, contract processing, PF to DNR transfer work)
Service Contracts	\$ 40,000	Restoration work for all acquired lands which may include prairie seeding, wetland restoration, tree removal, exotic species control, etc.
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 347,000	Acquisition of 86 acres
Professional Services for Acquisition:	\$ 20,000	Appraisals, lands surveys, title work, etc.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 2,000	Mileage
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 434,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:

Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator: (\$10,000) .05 FTE

Regional Biologists: (\$10,000) .08 FTE

Grants and Contracts Specialist (\$5,000) .05 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Private, Federal	\$ 275,000	\$ 0	Fee title acquisition, restoration
State			
	\$ 0	\$ 0	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 275,000	\$ 0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: PF will work with other Habitat Conservation Partners to the extent practical. Pheasants Forever will continue to work closely with the MN DNR and the USFWS to ensure all land acquisition obligations are met. All aspects of the acquisition process will be managed and completed by Pheasants Forever. Additional funding partners include private land owners, local PF chapters, conservation groups, and various units of state and local government.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is part of Pheasants Forever’s sustained effort of strategically acquiring WMAs and WPAs that provide high quality wildlife and habitat with multiple benefits that are open to the public for wildlife dependant recreation. All lands acquired will be donated to the State of Minnesota for enrollment into the WMA system or will be donated to the USFWS for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Federal Waterfowl Production Areas. For each parcel, an IDP will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the appropriate land management agency and all ecological restoration will be completed through this grant.

These strategic acquisitions also move to address several goals outlined in existing habitat/resource plans including: Aquatic Management Area Plan, Wildlife Management Area Plan, Statewide Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota Pheasant Plan, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, and several others.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$404,300 Subd. 5(a)	\$450,000 Subd. 4(b)	\$350,000 Subd. 3(c)	\$350,000 Subd. 4(e)	\$0
Other Funds (non state)	\$485,758	\$361,150	\$428,446	\$350,000	\$0

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: NA

IX. MAP(S): NA

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than November 30th 2011, May 31st 2012, and November 30th, 2012. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

FINAL Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

Project Title: HCP VII – 4a – WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4a					
Project Manager: Joe Pavelko					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 434,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2014					
Date of Update: FINAL REPORT					

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fee Title Acquisition</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) (72% salary, 28% benefits)	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000
Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator: (\$10,000) .05 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)					
Regional Biologists: (\$10,000) .08 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)					
Grants and Contracts Specialist (\$5,000) .05 FTE - (Contract review e.g. purchase agreements, contract processing, PF to DNR transfer work)					
Service contracts Restoration work on acquired parcels. Work will include prairie seed installation, field prepping, mowing, burning, earthwork, tile breaks, water control structure installation etc. This work will be hired through private contractors.	40,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
Fee Title Acquisition (Acquisition of 86 acres)	347,000	0	347,000	347,000	347,000
Professional Services for Acquisition (Appraisals, lands surveys, title work, etc.)	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota Mileage	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$434,000	\$0	434,000	434,000	434,000

2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: *Critical Lands Protection Program, The Trust for Public Land Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI I***PROJECT MANAGER:** Robert McGillivray**AFFILIATION:** The Trust for Public Land**MAILING ADDRESS:** 2610 University Ave, #300**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Saint Paul, MN 55114**PHONE:** 651-999-5307**E-MAIL:** Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org**WEBSITE:** www.tpl.org**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4c**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$490,000****Overall Project Outcome and Results**

On June 16, 2013 The Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquired 120 acres of high quality habitat on Upper Cullen Lake in Crow Wing County, containing over 2,700 feet of lakeshore and 1,000 feet of a designated trout stream. TPL immediately conveyed the land to Crow Wing County, who added the land to its' adjacent Memorial Forest and will manage the land for public hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Funding for the acquisition of this property was as follows:

Source of Funds	Allocated Acreage	Amount
Non-state		
Land value donations	24	\$120,000
State		
Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund	96	\$490,000
Appraised Value and TOTAL:	120	\$610,000

The land protected has high biodiversity significance according to Minnesota County Biological Survey. It provides critical habitat for a variety of species, including many of those in greatest conservation need including Bald Eagles and Blandings Turtles. It also is less than a mile from critical habitat for the Least Darter, the Red Shouldered Hawk, and Colonial Waterbird nesting areas. Protection of this land has been a priority of DNR for many years, as well as a priority to the Brainerd Lakes Area Conservation Collaborative Framework for Conservation and Recreation Planning.

Conservation of the Upper Cullen property not only protected high quality habitat that was threatened with development, but it has also enabled connections with existing public land, provided public lake access and recreation opportunities, and prevented forest fragmentation.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Several local papers covered the acquisition of the Upper Cullen Lake land:
<http://pineandlakes.com/echo-news/2013-08-06/natural-area-on-upper-cullen-lake-protected>;
<http://www.cullenlakes.org/ccfall13.html>. Information about this acquisition is posted on TPL's website: www.tpl.org. Information about the Upper Cullen protection effort has also been disseminated through its network of supporters which include: Cullen Lakes Association, Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, Crow Wing Lakes and River Association, Anglers for Habitat, Trout Unlimited, Crow Wing County, Pelican Township, and the MN Department of Natural Resources.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan**

Date of Status Update: 7/23/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? No

Project Title: HCP VII - TPLs Critical Lands Protection Program (4c)

Project Manager: Robert McGillivray
Affiliation: The Trust for Public Land
Address: 2610 University Ave W, Ste 300
City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 999-5307
Email Address: rjm@tpl.org
Web Address: http://www.tpl.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	490,000
	Amount Spent \$:	490,000
	Balance \$:	0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4c

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4c, TPL’s Critical Lands Protection Program

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

On June 16, 2013 The Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquired 120 acres of high quality habitat on Upper Cullen Lake in Crow Wing County, containing over 2,700 feet of lakeshore and 1,000 feet of a designated trout stream. TPL immediately conveyed the land to Crow Wing County, who added the land to its’ adjacent Memorial Forest and will manage the land for public hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Funding for the acquisition of this property was as follows:

Source of Funds	Allocated Acreage	Amount
Non-state		
Land value donations	24	\$120,000
State		
Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund	96	\$490,000
Appraised Value and TOTAL:	120	\$610,000

The land protected has high biodiversity significance according to Minnesota County Biological Survey. It provides critical habitat for a variety of species, including many of those in greatest conservation need including Bald Eagles and Blandings Turtles. It also is less than a mile from critical habitat for the Least Darter, the Red Shouldered Hawk, and Colonial Waterbird nesting areas. Protection of this land has been a priority of DNR for many years, as well as a priority to the Brainerd Lakes Area Conservation Collaborative Framework for Conservation and Recreation Planning.

Conservation of the Upper Cullen property not only protected high quality habitat that was threatened with development, but it has also enabled connections with existing public land, provided public lake access and recreation opportunities, and prevented forest fragmentation.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of November 1, 2011: The grant agreement was not completed by this time.

Project Status as of May 1, 2012: The Cannon River I parcel was acquired using other funding on September 30, 2011 and is now owned and managed by the DNR as the Dora Lake WMA. The Trust for Public Land does not have any additional completed acquisitions to report at this time.

Project Status as of November 1, 2012: The Trust for Public Land does not have any additional completed acquisitions to report at this time. Negotiations continue on the projects described on the acquisition list.

Project Status as of May 1, 2013: The Trust for Public Land does not have any additional completed acquisitions to report at this time. Negotiations continue on the projects described on the acquisition list.

Amendment Request 5/14/2013: The Trust for Public Land seeks permission to add the Upper Cullen Lake parcel to its acquisition list. The property is approximately 146 acres of high biodiversity significance land with over 2700 feet of lakeshore and over 1000 feet of a designated trout stream. The land provides key habitat for a number of species in greatest conservation need and connects with existing public land. The acquisition would protect sensitive shoreline that provides important spawning

areas for fish. The property is currently threatened with development and is listed for sale. The land would be owned and managed by Crow Wing County and added to the adjacent Crow Wing County Memorial Forest. (Originally it was envisioned that the land would be owned by the DNR. However, because several DNR personnel live on this lake, there was concern about a perceived potential conflict of interest.) TPL also requests that it be allowed to use for this acquisition the \$50,000 previously allocated to “funds to be provided to DNR if needed for restoration.” The DNR will not be the owner of this land, the property does not have great restoration needs and the County will take care of any such needs that do exist out of existing County funding. TPL further requests that it’s Project Completion Date be changed to June 30, 2014 to align with the appropriation and grant contract language and as a result of projects taking longer to complete than originally contemplated.

The HCP ENRTF grant would provide the funding to acquire approximately 120 acres with over 1000 feet of trout stream and over 1500 feet of lakeshore. (A planned second acquisition of the remaining 26 acres would occur next winter with other funding sources if this first ENRTF-funded acquisition is completed). The purchase price for the 120-acre property is \$490,000. The property was appraised for \$610,000, which appraisal has been reviewed and certified. The landowner has granted TPL an option to purchase the property at this discounted price through June 30, 2013. The County has entered into a formal agreement to accept the property from TPL. A letter from the County reflecting this and its commitment to managing the land to protect its natural resource values has been separately submitted. A letter from the DNR and a map of the property have been submitted as well. With respect to the other four projects on the acquisition list that TPL has been working on, one has closed with other funding, another is on track to close with other funding, one the landowner refuses to sell if the land will go to the DNR, and the fourth the landowners are not ready to sell at this time. **Amendment Approved: 6/25/2013.**

Project Status as of November 1, 2013: On 7/16/2013, The Trust for Public Land acquired the 120 acre Upper Cullen Lake parcel and immediately conveyed it to Crow Wing County. The Cannon River II acquisition was also completed on 12/20/2013 with other funding and is now the Koester Prairie tract of the new Prairie Creek WMA in Rice County.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Acquisition

Description: Projects are currently underway in Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Kandyiohi, Le Sueur, and Rice Counties involving protection of shoreline, wetlands, grasslands and woodlands. TPL will focus on habitat linkage projects that have the following characteristics: large, difficult and/or complex; multiple owners; a need for multiple funding sources; proximity to regional growth centers; and/or, high risk of development. Priority will be given to lands with high quality natural resources, especially shoreland and other lands that provide natural buffers to water resources. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, the Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan, the Wildlife Strategic Plan, the SNA Program Long Range Plan, and other natural resource plans will be used to help identify such lands. Final acreage protection will ultimately be affected by landowner willingness to sell key parcels. Because TPL is focusing on lands buffering water resources, the per acre cost is higher than that of non-riparian land. A list of projects TPL is working on is attached.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$ 490,000
	Amount Spent:	\$ 490,000
	Balance:	\$ 0

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquire/protect 44 acres of high quality habitat	6-30-2014	\$ 490,000

Activity Status as of November 1, 2011: The grant agreement was not completed by this time.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2012: The Cannon River I parcel was acquired using other funding on September 30, 2011 and is now owned and managed by the DNR as the Dora Lake WMA. Although The Trust for Public Land does not have any additional completed acquisitions to report at this time, work continues on the projects on the attached acquisition list. Also, permission is sought to add a project to the list.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2012: Although The Trust for Public Land does not have any additional completed acquisitions to report at this time, work continues on the projects on the attached acquisition list. Also, permission is sought to add a project to the list.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2013: Although The Trust for Public Land does not have any additional completed acquisitions to report at this time, work continues on the projects on the attached acquisition list. Also, permission is sought to add a project to the list.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2013: On 7/16/2013, The Trust for Public Land acquired the 120 acre Upper Cullen Lake parcel and immediately conveyed it to Crow Wing County. The land was purchased for \$490,000 using ENRTF funds. The property was appraised at \$610,000. The landowner made a \$120,000 land value donation. The Trust for Public Land is currently working on protecting the remaining 26 acres of this land using other funding. A final report will be submitted after work is completed on this project and costs have been determined.

The Cannon River II acquisition was also completed on 12/20/2013 with other funding and is now the Koester Prairie tract of the new Prairie Creek WMA in Rice County.

Final Report Summary: On 7/16/2013, The Trust for Public Land acquired the 120 acre Upper Cullen Lake parcel and immediately conveyed it to Crow Wing County. The land was purchased for \$490,000 using ENRTF funds. The property was appraised at \$610,000. The landowner made a \$120,000 land value donation. The Trust for Public Land protected the remaining 26 acres of this land using Conservation Partners Legacy grant funding and conveyed this remaining land to Crow Wing County on February 20, 2014.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As conservation transactions are completed, The Trust for Public Land will disseminate information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, broadcast emails to TPL list serve members, distribute press releases, and include information in TPL's newsletters and publications as appropriate. TPL will also work with the DNR to ensure information is distributed to its listserves and on its website as well.

Status as of November 1, 2011: The grant agreement was not completed by this time.

Status as of May 1, 2012: There are no dissemination activities to report for this time period.

Status as of November 1, 2012: There are no dissemination activities to report for this time period.

Status as of May 1, 2013: There are no dissemination activities to report for this time period.

Status as of November 1, 2013: Several local papers covered the acquisition of the Upper Cullen Lake land: <http://pineandlakes.com/echo-news/2013-08-06/natural-area-on-upper-cullen-lake-protected>; <http://www.cullenlakes.org/ccfall13.html>.

Final Report Summary: Several local papers covered the acquisition of the Upper Cullen Lake land: <http://pineandlakes.com/echo-news/2013-08-06/natural-area-on-upper-cullen-lake-protected>; <http://www.cullenlakes.org/ccfall13.html>. Information about this acquisition is posted on TPL’s website: www.tpl.org. Information about the Upper Cullen protection effort has also been disseminated through its network of supporters which include: Cullen Lakes Association, Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, Crow Wing Lakes and River Association, Anglers for Habitat, Trout Unlimited, Crow Wing County, Pelican Township, and the MN Department of Natural Resources.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 490,000	Acquisition capital for land
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 490,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent*	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Land value donations, private contributions, federal funds.	\$150,000	\$215,000	Land Value Donation as part of fee acquisition.
State			
Bonding, Outdoor Heritage Fund, RIM.	\$410,000	\$400,000	Fee acquisition capital.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$560,000	\$120,000	

*Includes funds from the second phase of acquisition, funded through a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant.

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: We are part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership proposal. Please see main proposal for complete partner list. The Trust for Public Land will transfer land to the DNR for long-term stewardship.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Much of our prairie, wetlands, shorelines, and watersheds have been developed or degraded over a roughly 150-year period, and we cannot restore the “remarkable place known as Minnesota,” without a long-term view, ongoing funding, and focus from conservationists towards that goal. As noted in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, “habitat issues are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of natural resources throughout Minnesota.” Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership is a sustained effort to protect and restore these landscapes through a long-term effort. TPL believes that the success

of conservation in Minnesota will depend on effective partnerships amongst nonprofit organizations and with public agencies like HCP. Through these public/private partnerships, greater conservation can be achieved with each partner bringing their own particular strengths to bear on the critical issues of protection, restoration, and long term stewardship and management. We believe that working within the Habitat Conservation Partnership allows us to better conserve, restore, enhance and manage habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. We seek to do this with an emphasis on high quality natural resource lands buffering water resources that will provide outstanding access to nature for the public.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
STATUS	Spent	Spent	Spent	Spent	Spent
ENRTF	\$425,000 Subd. 5(a)	\$480,000 Subd. 4(b)	\$350,000 Subd. 3(c)	\$350,000 Subd. 4(e)	\$200,000 Subd. 4(c)
Other Partner's ENRTF	100,000	190,000	100,000		
Outdoor Heritage Fund			533,800		
Bonding	746,607	180,000	390,000		
RIM	100,000	175,000	16,200		
Clean Water Legacy Act	100,000				
DNR WMA Surplus Sale Proceeds	236,000				
NAWCA	177,320				
ACUB	260,000				
LAWCON	260,123				
City	240,000				
Private/Land Value Donation	55,000	175,000	60,000		

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attached list.

IX. MAP(S): A statewide map with all of the projects on our acquisition list is attached.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A.

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than December 2011, June 2012, December 2012, June 2013, December 2013, and June 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: HCP7-4c, TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4c					
Project Manager: Robert McGillivray					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 490,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: 6-30-2014					
Date of Update: Final					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM					
Fee Title Acquisition	490,000	490,000	0	490,000	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$0	\$490,000	\$0

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: HCP7-4c, TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program, The Trust for Public Land

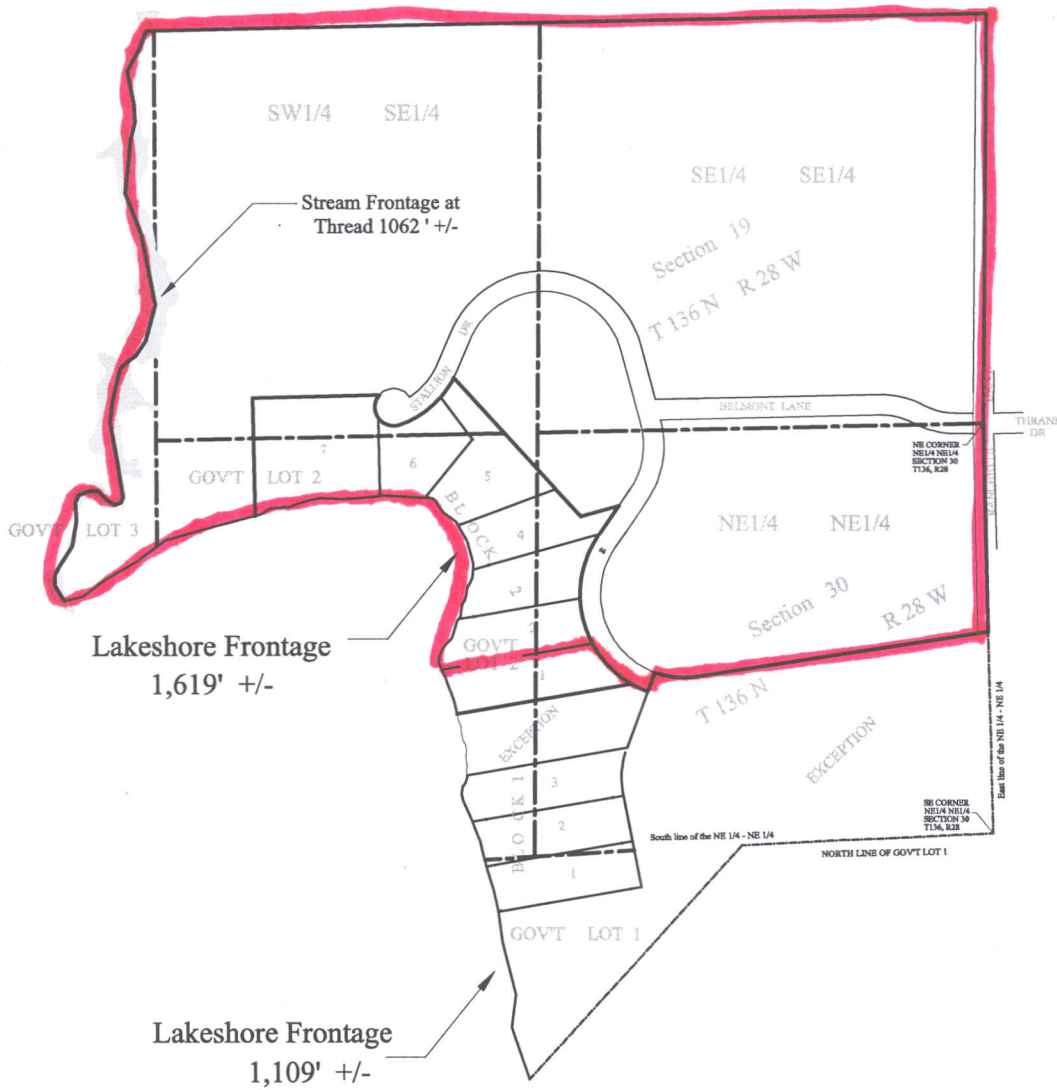
Project Manager Name: Robert McGillivray

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$490,000

Final Title Holder(s): DNR or County.

#	Parcel Name	(Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates		Summary Description	Proposed Final Fee Title Holder	Status
					Latitude	Longitude			
1	Cannon River I WMA/AMA	Fee Title	LeSueur	510	44°20'49N	93°33'31"W	Approximately 510 acres of prairie and wetlands on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Le Sueur County with MCBS mapped areas.	DNR	ACQUIRED with other funding.
2	Upper Cullen Lake AMA	Fee Title	Crow Wing	146	46°34'25"N	94°15'2.8"W	Approximately 146 acres of high biodiversity significance land with over 2700 feet of lakeshore and over 1000 feet of a designated trout stream.	Crow Wing County	Under option to purchase .
3	Cannon River II WMA/AMA	Fee Title	Rice	100-785	44°17'23"N	93°28'53"W	Between 100 and 785 acres of prairie and wetlands on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Rice County with MCBS mapped areas.	DNR	<u>Under option to purchase with funding from another source.</u>
4	Reid Woods SNA	Fee Title	Kandiyohi	650	45°4'19"N	94°54'42"W	Approximately 650 acres of wetlands, prairie and forest on the shores of a chain of shallow lakes in Kandiyohi County containing many SNA quality features.	DNR	Negotiations with landowner underway.
5	Plantagenet Lake AMA	Fee Title	Hubbard	100	47°22'9"N	94°55'25"W	Approximately 100 acres of forest and wetlands on a deep lake in Hubbard County with a designated trout stream and connecting existing public land to the lake.	DNR	Negotiations with landowner underway.

NOTES: Projects are listed in priority order. It is anticipated that this funding will be used on the first two projects.

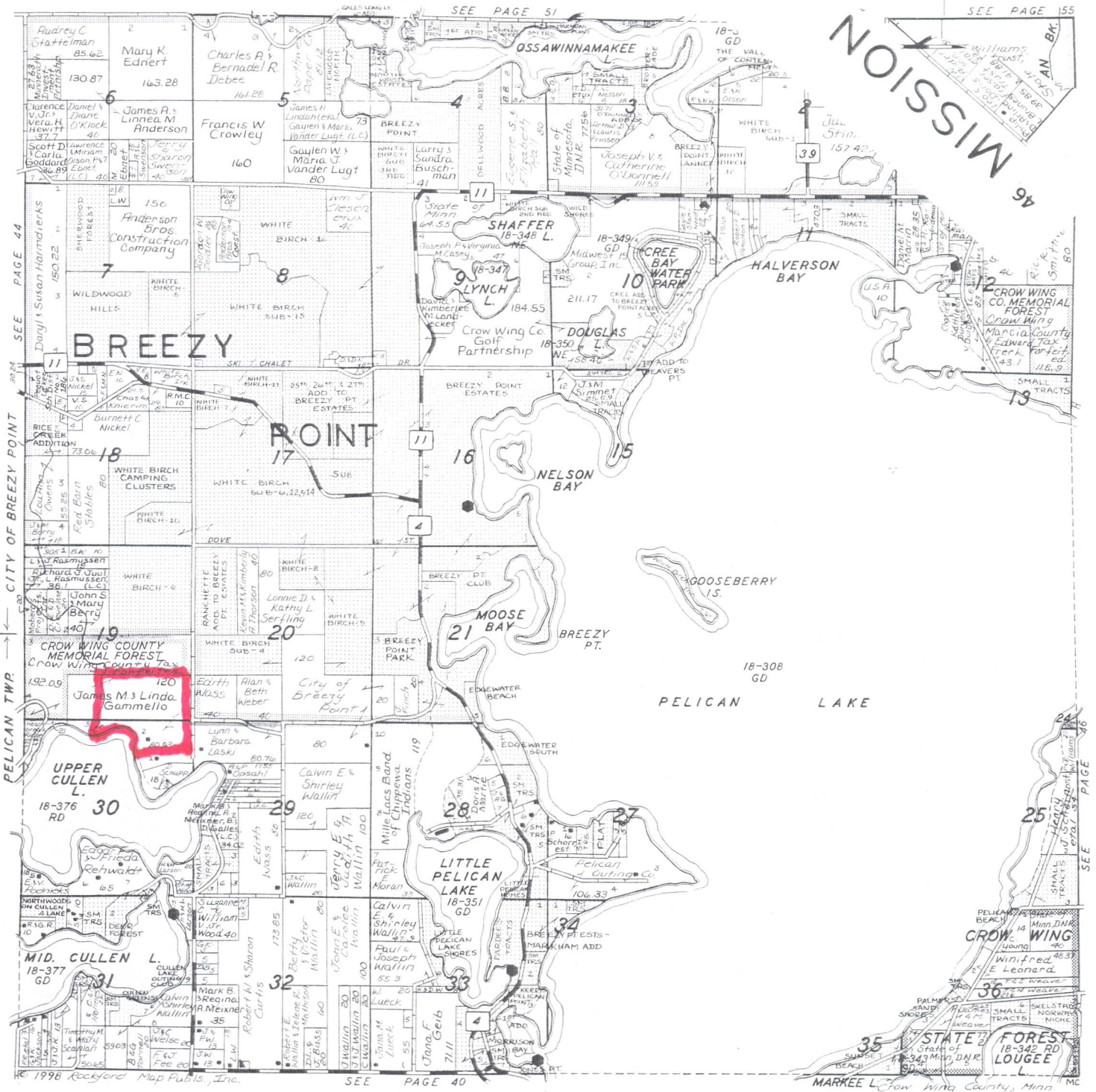


**Total Acreage
North & South Tracts**

146.4 Acres +/-

North Tract
5247165.3 Sq. Feet
120.5 Acres

South Tract
1129894.2 Sq. Feet
25.9 Acres



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SEE PAGE 40

MARKEE L. Crow Wing County, Minn



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M.L. 2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Priority Acquisition, MN Valley Wetland Management District (4h)

PROJECT MANAGER: Deborah Loon

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS: 3815 East American Boulevard

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Bloomington, MN 55425

PHONE: 612-801-1935

E-MAIL: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

WEBSITE: www.mnvalleytrust.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4h

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The MN Valley Trust acquired fee title to 78.96 acres to expand the Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Blue Earth County. The ENRTF grant acquired 45.98 acres and other, non-state private funds acquired the remaining 32.98 acres.

This tract is now an integral part of a 600+ acre complex called the Howard Farm WPA of the USFWS / Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District. The acquired property includes degraded prairie and wetland habitat that was drained so that it could be farmed.

Plans for this now-retired cropland include restoration of 62 acres of upland and 18 acres of wetland habitat that will be able to store up to 15 million gallons of water. The prairie seed mix will include the maximum diversity of plant species to benefit waterfowl, grassland birds, and pollinators.

This project will increase habitat quality and nest success for resident and migratory grassland birds, waterfowl, wading birds, resident species, and pollinators. It also will improve water quality to nearby Loon Lake, Lake Crystal, and the Watonwan and Minnesota Rivers through filtration and storage, and will increase wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for the public.

To meet the 1:1 leverage obligation of its work plan, the MN Valley Trust also completed the following during the project period using other private, non-state funds:

- Acquired fee title to 17.39 acres for the Perch Lake WPA on the north end of this state-designated shallow lake that provides critical resting habitat for migrating waterfowl. Habitat work will include retiring the cropland and field road, restoring both to prairie grassland, and removing a shed cabin from the lakeshore.
- Acquired fee title to 160 acres to expand the Lincoln WPA. The tract includes a 152-acre CREP easement and an 8-acre building site. Habitat work will include restoring the building site to native prairie, enhancing 15 wetland acres, restoring 11 wetlands not previously restored, inter-seeding 152 acres with a diverse mix of prairie forbs and applying prescribed fire.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the projects via news releases and the Trust website as habitat restoration work gets underway. Once habitat work is complete, the lands will be opened by the USFWS for the public's use for wildlife-dependent recreation.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Report: 5/29/2014
Final Report: 5/29/2014
Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Project Title: HCP VII - Priority Acquisition, MN Valley Wetland Management District (4h)

Project Manager: Deborah Loon
Affiliation: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc
Address: 3815 East American Boulevard
City: Bloomington **State:** MN **Zip Code:** 55425

Telephone Number: (612) 801-1935
Email Address: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org
Web Address: <http://www.mnvalleytrust.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Blue Earth, Le Sueur
Ecological Section Impacted: North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	400,000
	Amount Spent \$:	400,000
	Balance \$:	0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4h

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4h Priority Acquisition, MN Valley Wetland Management District

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

The MN Valley Trust acquired fee title to 78.96 acres to expand the Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Blue Earth County. The ENRTF grant acquired 45.98 acres and other, non-state private funds acquired the remaining 32.98 acres.

This tract is now an integral part of a 600+ acre complex called the Howard Farm WPA of the USFWS / Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District. The acquired property includes degraded prairie and wetland habitat that was drained so that it could be farmed.

Plans for this now-retired cropland include restoration of 62 acres of upland and 18 acres of wetland habitat that will be able to store up to 15 million gallons of water. The prairie seed mix will include the maximum diversity of plant species to benefit waterfowl, grassland birds, and pollinators.

This project will increase habitat quality and nest success for resident and migratory grassland birds, waterfowl, wading birds, resident species, and pollinators. It also will improve water quality to nearby Loon Lake, Lake Crystal, and the Watonwan and Minnesota Rivers through filtration and storage, and will increase wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for the public.

To meet the 1:1 leverage obligation of its work plan, the MN Valley Trust also completed the following during the project period using other private, non-state funds:

- Acquired fee title to 17.39 acres for the Perch Lake WPA on the north end of this state-designated shallow lake that provides critical resting habitat for migrating waterfowl. Habitat work will include retiring the cropland and field road, restoring both to prairie grassland, and removing a shed cabin from the lakeshore.
- Acquired fee title to 160 acres to expand the Lincoln WPA. The tract includes a 152-acre CREP easement and an 8-acre building site. Habitat work will include restoring the building site to native prairie, enhancing 15 wetland acres, restoring 11 wetlands not previously restored, inter-seeding 152 acres with a diverse mix of prairie forbs and applying prescribed fire.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of November 30, 2011: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Project Status as of May 30, 2012: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of November 30, 2012: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of May 30, 2013: Outreach to landowners continues. MN Valley Trust is moving forward with two acquisitions to strategically expand existing waterfowl production areas in the target area. These acquisitions will be acquired with other, non-state funds as match to this grant.

Amendment Request as of September 26, 2013: MN Valley Trust wishes to (1) add a parcel to its list of potential acquisition projects and (2) reduce its acreage target from 80 to 40 acres. We have identified a strategic, high priority opportunity to expand the USFWS Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). Land values have risen in the Southern Lakes Region, cutting in half the number of acres we expect to be able to acquire with the ENRTF grant. We have left the leverage amount at 40 acres and \$400,000 of other non-state funds, but will likely exceed those amounts significantly.

Project Status as of November 30, 2013: Purchase agreement has been signed and title work is underway to acquire 78.96 acres to expand the Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area in Blue Earth

County. The grant will acquire 45.98 acres and other, non-state private funds will acquire the remaining 32.98 acres.

Project Status as of May 30, 2014: This project is complete. The MN Valley Trust acquired fee title to 78.96 acres to expand the Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Blue Earth County. The ENRTF grant acquired 45.98 acres and other, non-state private funds acquired the remaining 32.98 acres. In addition, the MN Valley Trust acquired 177.39 acres to expand two other WPAs in Blue Earth County using other, non-state funds.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: The MN Valley Trust acquired fee title to 78.96 acres to expand the Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Blue Earth County. The ENRTF grant acquired 45.98 acres and other, non-state private funds acquired the remaining 32.98 acres.

With the acquisition completed, this tract is now an integral part of a 600+ acre complex called the Howard Farm WPA, which is owned and managed by the USFWS / Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District. The acquired property includes degraded prairie and 14 restorable (drained) wetland basins, three of which are shared on the boundary with another tract of the WPA awaiting restoration. This marginal cropland is drained by extensive private tile, county and judicial ditches, all of which may now be abandoned. By removing this WPA from the county and judicial ditches, water quality will be improved to nearby Loon Lake, Lake Crystal and the Watonwan and Minnesota Rivers.

Planning for wetland and grassland restoration of this now-retired cropland is underway. A Conservation Partners Legacy grant and other private funds have been secured to complete the habitat work, which will include restoration of 62 acres of upland and 18 acres of wetland habitat. The wetlands will be able to store up to 15 million gallons of water. The prairie seed mix will include the maximum diversity of plant species to benefit especially waterfowl, grassland birds and pollinators.

To meet the 1:1 leverage obligation of its work plan, the MN Valley Trust also completed the following during the project period using other private, non-state funds:

- Acquired fee title to 17.39 acres for the Perch Lake WPA on the north end of this state-designated shallow lake that provides critical resting habitat for migrating waterfowl. The parcel acquired was an in-holding between previously-acquired and restored WPA property and a DNR-owned parcel that provides walk-in access to the lake. Habitat work will include retiring the cropland and field road, restoring both to prairie grassland, and removing a shed cabin from the lakeshore.
- Acquired fee title to 160 acres to expand the Lincoln WPA. The tract includes a 152-acre CREP easement and an 8-acre building site. Habitat work will include restoring the building site to native prairie, enhancing 15 wetland acres, restoring 11 wetlands not previously restored, inter-seeding 152 acres with a diverse mix of prairie forbs and applying prescribed fire.

These completed projects – at Howard Farm WPA, Lincoln WPA and Perch Lake WPA - will increase habitat quality and nest success for resident and migratory grassland birds, waterfowl, wading birds, resident species and pollinators. It will also provide benefits to water quality through filtration and storage, and will increase wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for the public.

Cost and funding sources summary:

	Fee title acquisition	Transaction costs	Grant and other funds
Howard Farm WPA	\$ 686,952	\$ 8,135	\$400,000 ENRTF \$295,087 other non-state funds
Lincoln WPA	\$ 256,000	\$ 2,466	\$258,466 other non-state funds
Perch Lake WPA	\$ 121,730	\$ 1,069	\$122,799 other non-state funds

Total	\$1,064,682	\$11,670	\$400,000 ENRTF \$676,352 other non-state funds
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Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 400,000
Amount Spent: \$ 400,000
Balance: \$ 0

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2014

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquire 40 acres of priority lands to expand or establish a USFWS Waterfowl Production Area in the Southern Lakes Region	June 30, 2014	\$ 400,000

Activity Status as of November 30, 2011: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Activity Status as of May 30, 2012: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of November 30, 2012: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of May 30, 2013: Outreach to landowners continues. MN Valley Trust is moving forward with two acquisitions to strategically expand existing waterfowl production areas in the target area. These acquisitions will be acquired with other, non-state funds as match to this grant.

Amendment Request as of September 26, 2013: MN Valley Trust wishes to (1) add a parcel to its list of potential acquisitions projects and (2) reduce its acreage target from 80 to 40 acres. We have identified a strategic, high priority opportunity to expand the USFWS Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). Land values have risen in the Southern Lakes Region, cutting in half the number of acres we expect to be able to acquire with the ENRTF grant. We have left the leverage amounts at 40 acres and \$400,000 of other non-state funds, but will likely exceed those amounts significantly.

Activity Status as of November 30, 2013: Purchase agreement has been signed and title work is underway to acquire 78.96 acres to expand the Howard Farm Waterfowl Production Area in Blue Earth County. The grant will acquire 45.98 acres and other, non-state private funds will acquire the remaining 32.98 acres.

Activity Status as of May 30, 2014: This project is complete.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As projects are completed, the Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the accomplishments through press releases and the Trust website.

Status as of November 30, 2011: Not applicable.

Status as of May 30, 2012: Not applicable.

Status as of November 30, 2012: Not applicable.

Status as of May 30, 2013: Not applicable.

Status as of November 30, 2013: Not applicable.

Final Report Summary: Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the projects via news releases and the Trust website as habitat restoration work gets underway. Once habitat work is complete, the lands will be opened by the USFWS for the public's use for wildlife-dependent recreation.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 400,000	Fee title acquisition of 45.98 acres to expand a Waterfowl Production Area in the Southern Lakes Region.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 400,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
MN Valley Trust funds (other non-state funds)	\$ 400,000	\$ 676,352	Fee title acquisition of 210.37 acres to expand Waterfowl Production Areas in the Southern Lakes Region
State	\$ 0	\$ 0	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 400,000	\$ 676,352	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: This project was part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII. The Minnesota Valley Trust worked in close partnership with the USFWS to (1) identify properties to strategically acquire for the MN Valley Wetland Management District, then (2) plan and (3) manage the restoration of the lands. Other partners include DNR, the local watershed management organizations, Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District, state conservation organizations and local conservation clubs (e.g., MN Pheasants, Inc – Blue Earth County).

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project was anticipated by the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District of the USFWS. It also is part of a larger strategy involving many other established projects and efforts -- NAWCA grants of more than \$25 million and more than 50 partners, USFWS Challenge Grants and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, EPA Clean Water grants, CREP, Wetland Reserve Program, Reinvest in Minnesota, local grant programs and more than 20 local sportsman clubs active in the area. Partners have acquired and restored > 10,000 acres of habitat in this part of the Southern Lakes Area through various conservation programs.

This project meets the following recommendations in the Statewide Conservation Plan -- protect priority land habitats; improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation; restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds and keep water on the landscape. It also meets the objectives in the LCCMR Strategic Plan, MN DNR Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, NAWCA, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

This project will restore the breeding population and migration objectives for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway, benefitting a host of species, including mallard, blue-winged teal, lesser scaup, northern pintail, tundra and trumpeter swans, redhead, wood duck and canvasback.

The project also will improve water quality in sub-watersheds of the Middle Minnesota River, as well as Loon Lake and Crystal Lake in Blue Earth County.

Habitat restoration and enhancement work will be completed by the Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc., working in close collaboration with the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District of the USFWS. Upon completion of the habitat work, the properties will be donated to the USFWS for ongoing management as part of the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF – HCP	\$ 126,878	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
Other non-state funds, including MN Valley Trust and private contributions	\$1,688,649	\$ 232,976	\$ 80,196	\$ 276,255	\$ 0

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Attached

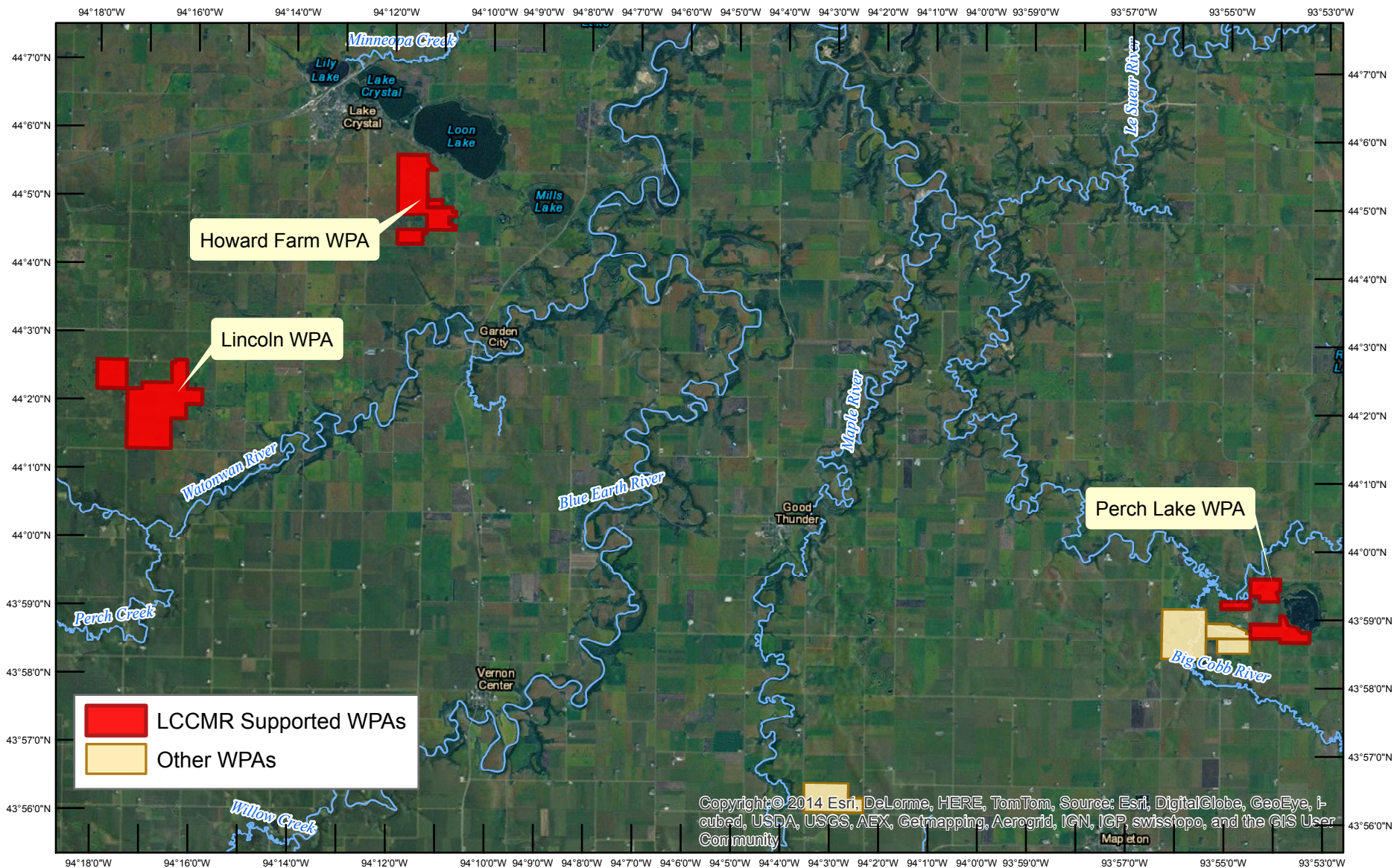
IX. MAP(S): Attached

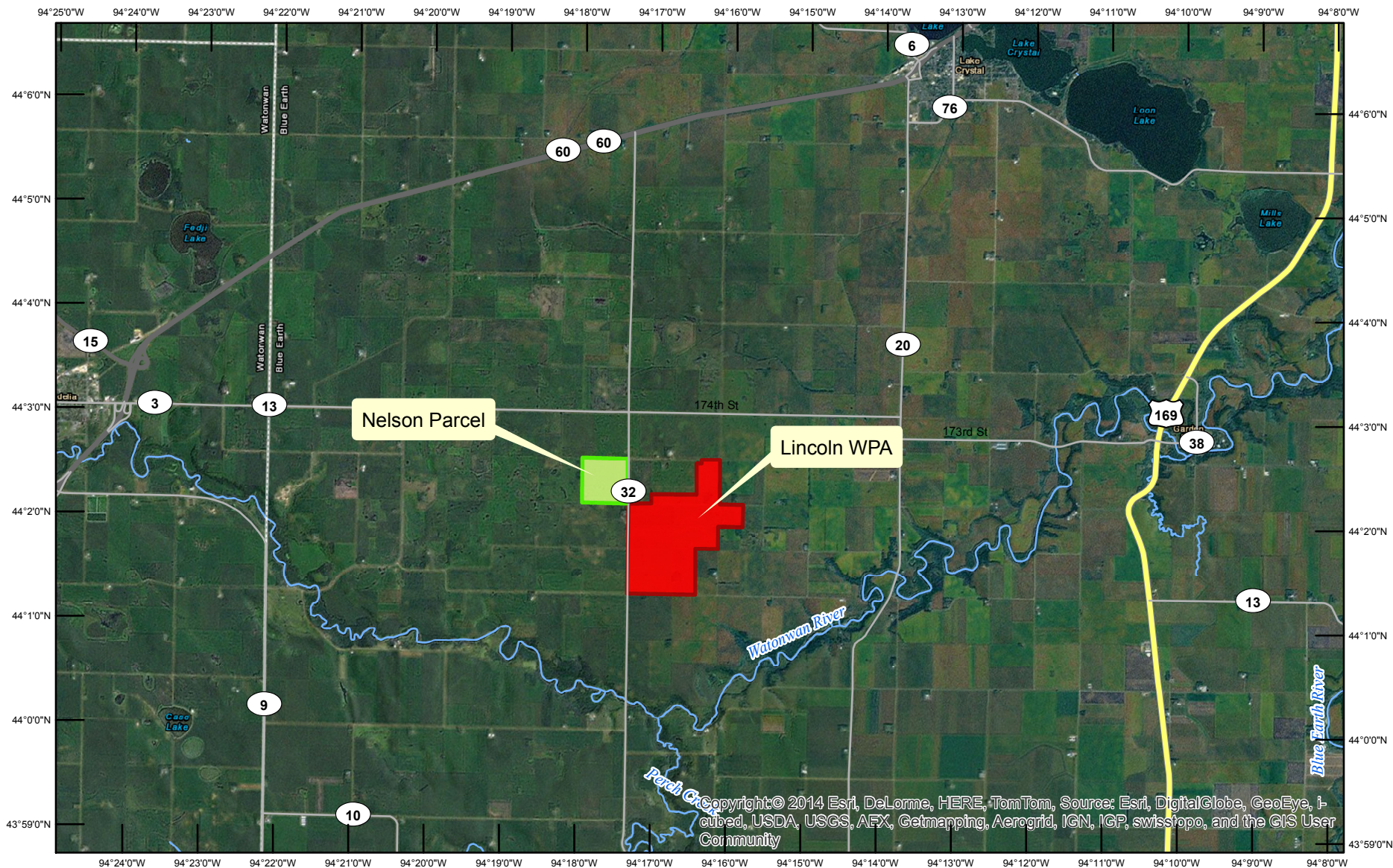
X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

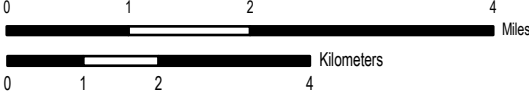
Periodic work plan status update reports were submitted not later than November 30, 2011, May 30, 2012, November 30, 2013, May 30, 2013, and November 30, 2013. This is the final report.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects				
Project Title: HCP7-4h Priority Acquisition, Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District				
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4h				
Project Manager: Deborah Loon				
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000				
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years - June 30, 2014				
Date of Final Report: May 29, 2014				
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fee acquisition 40 acres</i>			
Fee Title Acquisition	400,000	400,000	400,000	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0

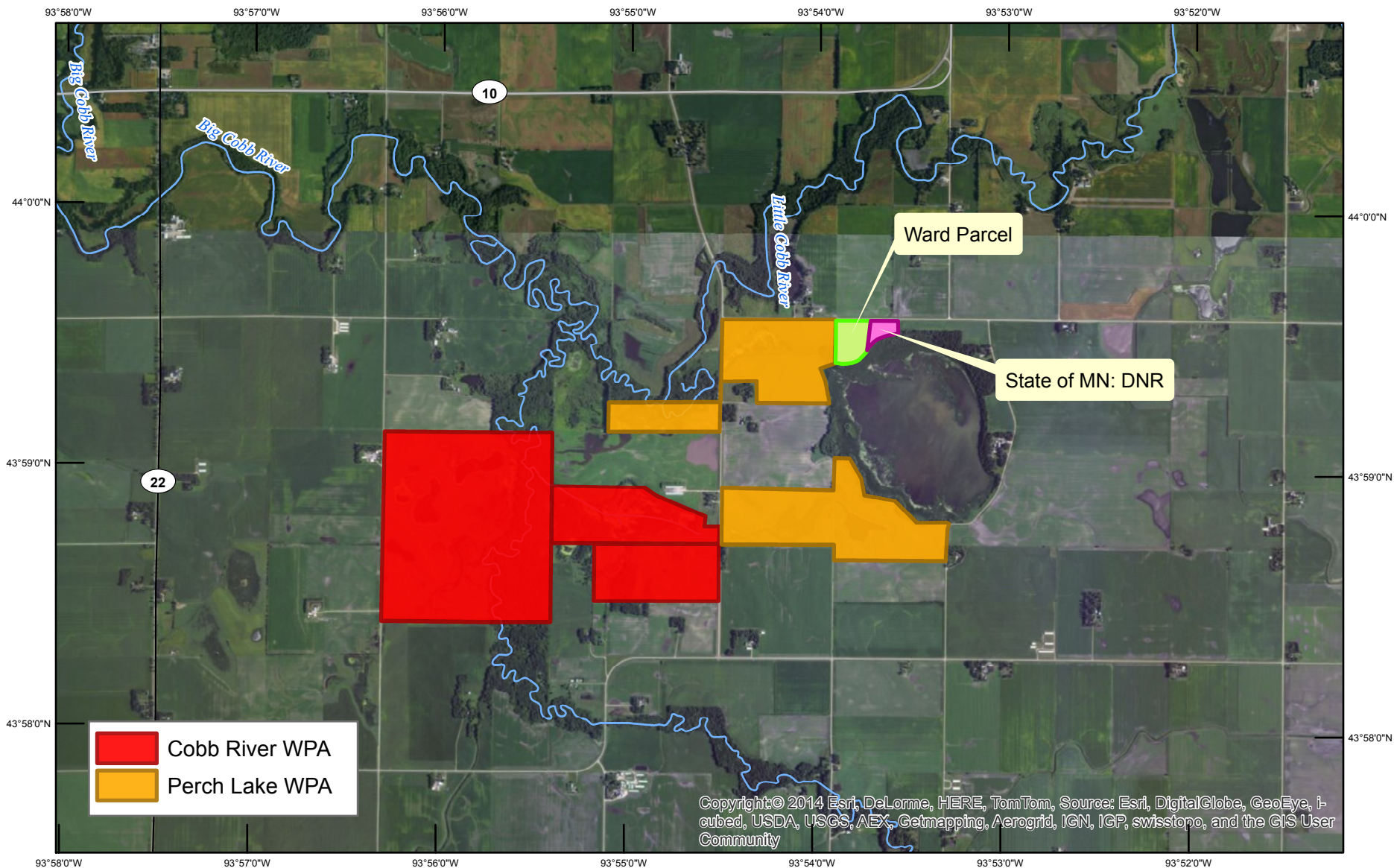




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BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
MAP DATE: 5/22/2014



UTM ZONE 15
NAD 83



M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4i Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

Project Title: HCP VII - Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services (4i)

Project Manager: Rick Walsh

Affiliation: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5232

Email Address: rick.walsh@state.mn.us

WEBSITE: www.mn.dnr.gov

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4i

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$20,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The purpose of this funding was to help cover the cost of professional services related to transfer of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) property to the DNR from Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) partners. Several HCP partners have received funding for WMA acquisition. The process of conveying title to this land from partner to DNR results in direct costs to DNR for things such as staff time for DNR Division of Lands and Minerals and the Attorney General's Office, survey costs, recording fees, abstracting fees, property taxes, and deed taxes. These costs can be considerable and often create strain on other DNR budgets. This funding has supported the conveyance of thirteen WMA parcels from three HCP partners. These thirteen parcels added over 840 acres to the WMA system to be permanently protected and open to public hunting, fishing, and trapping. Although this was a 36-month (FY12 to FY14) appropriation, it was largely spent in the first 18 months. Therefore most of the FY13 and FY14 costs for conveyance of these lands have been paid from other DNR budgets. For these 13 properties approximately \$21,500 has come from those other budgets. This illustrates that the costs associated with conveying land acquired by partners are protracted and do not end once the land is acquired. Appropriations that fund acquisition of land to be conveyed to DNR need to adequately budget for associated costs. This will ensure that newly acquired lands can be entered into DNR's Outdoor Recreation System in a timely manner, and that other DNR budgets do not bear the brunt of such costs.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Acquired parcels are found on the [DNR Recreation Compass](#) and on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov. In addition, HCP partners may have published news releases, articles, or other documents regarding these parcels. It was not the intent of this appropriation to fund or orchestrate dissemination. Dissemination was a function of the funding provided to the HCP partners that acquired and reported upon the land.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: 08/15/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** N

Project Title: HCP VII - Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services (4i)

Project Manager: Rick Walsh
Affiliation: MN DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20
City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155
Telephone Number: (651) 259-5233
Email Address: rick.walsh@state.mn.us
Web Address: www.mndnr.gov

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	20,000
	Amount Spent \$:	19,989
	Balance \$:	11

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4i

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4i Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

The purpose of this funding was to help cover the cost of professional services related to transfer of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) property to the DNR from Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) partners. Several HCP partners have received funding for WMA acquisition. The process of conveying title to this land from partner to DNR results in direct costs to DNR for things such as staff time for DNR Division of Lands and Minerals and the Attorney General’s Office, survey costs, recording fees, abstracting fees, property taxes, and deed taxes. These costs can be considerable and often create strain on other DNR budgets. This funding has supported the conveyance of thirteen WMA parcels from three HCP partners. These thirteen parcels added over 840 acres to the WMA system to be permanently protected and open to public hunting, fishing, and trapping. Although this was a 36-month (FY12 to FY14) appropriation, it was largely spent in the first 18 months. Therefore most of the FY13 and FY14 costs for conveyance of these lands have been paid from other DNR budgets. For these 13 properties approximately \$21,500 has come from those other budgets. This illustrates that the costs associated with conveying land acquired by partners are protracted and do not end once the land is acquired. Appropriations that fund acquisition of land to be conveyed to DNR need to adequately budget for associated costs. This will ensure that newly acquired lands can be entered into DNR’s Outdoor Recreation System in a timely manner, and that other DNR budgets do not bear the brunt of such costs.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of Nov 1, 2011

Project Status as of May 1, 2012 Amendment Request 05/01/2012: Minor change affecting staff time rate in Activity 1 description, Dissemination description, and project manager and legal citation in Attachment A. Progress to date has been to support conveyance of seven parcels of land to DNR by providing funding for professional services associated with the transactions. These parcels will become parts of the following state Wildlife Management Areas: Alvstad, Cambria, Clare Johnson, Dora Lake, Mannanah, Rice Lake, and Sangl.

Project Status as of Nov 1, 2012 Progress to date has been to support conveyance of seven parcels of land to DNR by providing funding for professional services associated with the transactions. These parcels were acquired with ENRTF funding and will become parts of the following state Wildlife Management Areas: Alvstad, Cambria, Clare Johnson, Dora Lake, Mannanah, Rice Lake, and Sangl.

Project Status as of June 30, 2013 Progress to date has been to support conveyance of twelve parcels of land to DNR by providing funding for professional services associated with the transactions. These parcels were acquired with ENRTF funding and will become parts of the following state Wildlife Management Areas: Alvstad, Benderberg, Cambria, Clare Johnson, Dora Lake, Florida Creek, Mannanah, Milan, Maple Meadows, Rice Lake, Sangl, and White Bear. See table below for details.

<u>WMA name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Landowner name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>HCP Partner</u>	<u>Date acquired</u>
Alvstad	Grant	Alvstad	10	Pheasants Forever	11/21/2011
Benderberg	Chippewa	Kvistero	82	Pheasants Forever	12/29/2010
Cambria	Blue Earth	Overn	87	Pheasants Forever	5/28/2010
Clare Johson	Lincoln	Madsen	36	Pheasants Forever	9/30/2011
Diamond Lake	Le Sueur	Hogan	36	Pheasants Forever	6/26/2013
Dora Lake	Le Sueur	Bohn	146	Trust for Public Land	9/30/2011

Florida Creek	Lac qui Parle	Peterson	60	Pheasants Forever	5/27/2011
Mannahan	Meeker	Mahn	121	Pheasants Forever	12/28/2007
Milan	Chippewa	Olson	65	Pheasants Forever	12/16/2010
Maple Meadows	Polk		40	Nature Conservancy	8/4/2008
Rice Lake	Faribault	Wahe	28	Pheasants Forever	6/4/2012
Sangl	Jackson	Bristow	80	Pheasants Forever	9/21/2009
White Bear	Pope	Kalina	50	Pheasants Forever	12/6/2010

Project Status as of November 1, 2013. Progress to date has been to support conveyance of thirteen parcels of land to DNR by providing funding for professional services associated with the transactions. These parcels were acquired with ENRTF funding and will become parts of the following state Wildlife Management Areas: Alvstad, Benderberg, Cambria, Clare Johnson, Diamond Lake, Dora Lake, Florida Creek, Mannahan, Milan, Maple Meadows, Rice Lake, Sangl, and White Bear. See table above for details.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Habitat Acquisition – Professional Services

Description: The Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife will provide professional services and pay the associated costs of conveying lands acquired by partners under this project to the Department. Professional services include the following: staff time for the Division of Lands and Minerals (\$83/hour) and the Attorney General’s Office (\$123/hour), survey costs, recording and abstracting fees, and deed tax. The total cost to process and complete the estimated land conveyances to the DNR under this program is approximately 10% of the total value of these acquisitions.

DNR cannot start work until the Partners have completed acquisition on each parcel. DNR and Partners have estimated that **400 acres** will be acquired and turned over to DNR, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. The work completed under this proposal is dependent on the acres, types, and condition of lands acquired by the partners. All work will be completed by June 30, 2013.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000
Amount Spent: \$ 19,989
Balance: \$ 11

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. The Minnesota DNR will have provided professional services and paid the associated costs of conveying lands acquired by HCP partners under this project to DNR.	June 30, 2013	\$ 20,000

Activity Status as of Nov 1, 2011

Activity Status as of May 1, 2012 Dollars spent to date have been to pay for professional services provided by MN Attorney General’s Office staff, recording fees, abstracting fees, and copy fees related to seven parcels being acquired by HCP partners that will ultimately be conveyed to DNR.

Activity Status as of Nov 1, 2012 Dollars spent to date have been to pay for professional services provided by MN Attorney General's Office staff, recording fees, abstracting fees, and copy fees related to seven parcels being acquired by HCP partners that have been or will be conveyed to DNR.

Activity Status as of June 30, 2013 Dollars spent to date have been to pay for professional services provided by MN Attorney General's Office staff, MNDNR Lands & Minerals staff, survey charges, recording fees, abstracting fees, property tax, and copy fees related to twelve parcels acquired by HCP partners that have been or will be conveyed to DNR. The table below summarizes costs by category.

Activity Status as of November, 2013. Dollars spent to date have been to pay for professional services provided by MN Attorney General's Office staff, MNDNR Lands & Minerals staff, survey charges, recording fees, abstracting fees, property tax, and copy fees related to thirteen parcels acquired by HCP partners that have been or will be conveyed to DNR. The table below summarizes costs by category.

Expense Category	Amount to date
DNR Lands & Minerals services	\$10,300
Survey charges	\$3,000.00
AGO services	\$838.8
Property tax	\$5,350.00
Deed tax, recording fees,	\$411.25
Abstracting fees	\$89.00
TOTAL	\$19,989.05

Final Report Summary: As of June 30, 2014, \$19,989 dollars have been spent from this appropriation to pay for professional services provided by MN Attorney General's Office staff, MNDNR Lands & Minerals staff, survey charges, recording fees, abstracting fees, property tax, and copy fees related to thirteen parcels acquired by HCP partners that have been or will be conveyed to DNR. The table above summarizes costs by category. Although this funding was very helpful in paying for these costs that DNR incurs by accepting WMA lands acquired by HCP partners, it was not enough to cover the full cost of conveying those lands to DNR. Other DNR budgets had to contribute approximately \$21,500 in addition to the \$20,000 from this appropriation. The spending from other budgets occurred primarily in late FY13 and FY14 after the ENRTF funding was depleted. Appropriations that fund acquisition of land to be conveyed to DNR need to adequately budget for associated costs. This will ensure that newly acquired lands can be entered into DNR's Outdoor Recreation System in a timely manner, and that other DNR budgets do not bear the brunt of such costs

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Accomplishment will be reported through DNR press releases and can be found on DNR's website. Completed acquisitions will be added to Statewide PRIM maps and Wildlife Lands maps. Signs acknowledging ENRFT funding will be posted at all acquired lands.

Status as of Nov 1, 2011

Status as of May 1, 2012 No results to date

Status as of Nov 1, 2012 Acquired parcels are found on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.mndnr.gov), on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov, and at the HCP website www.mnhabitatcorridors.org.

Status as of Jun 30, 2013 Acquired parcels are found on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.mndnr.gov), on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov, and at the HCP website www.mnhabitatcorridors.org.

Status as of November 1, 2013. Acquired parcels are found on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.mndnr.gov), on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov, and at the HCP website www.mnhabitatcorridors.org.

Final Report Summary: Acquired parcels are found on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.mndnr.gov), on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov, and at the HCP website www.mnhabitatcorridors.org. In addition, HCP partners may have published news releases, articles, or other documents regarding these parcels. It was not the intent of this appropriation to fund or orchestrate dissemination. Dissemination was a function of the funding provided to the HCP partners that acquired and reported upon the land.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Professional Services for Acq:	\$ 20,000	Lands & Minerals, AGs Office, Survey, etc
	\$	
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 20,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: NA

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$ NA	\$	
State	\$ 0	\$21,570	<u>professional services</u>
	\$ NA	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ NA	\$21,570	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: HCP partners that may transfer parcels to DNR include, but are not limited to, Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) is a partner in the nonprofit organization of Habitat Conservation Partnership. The mission of Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. Pheasants Forever (PF) is the main organization that has identified parcels for acquisition that would be transferred to DNR-FAW. Joe Pavelko, PF MN Director of Conservation Programs, is the lead contact for PF for land acquisitions and transfers. Other partners including, but not limited to, Minnesota Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy may transfer parcels to DNR as well.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF		25,000	30,000	25000	

VIII. ACQUISITION LIST: NA

IX. MAP(S): NA

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than Nov 1, 2011, May 1, 2012, Nov 1, 2012, June 30, 2013, and November 1, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: HCP7-4i Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4i					
Project Manager: Rick walsh					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 20,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014					
Date of Update: August 15, 2014					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fill in your activity title here.</i>				
Professional Services for Acquisition	20,000	19,989	11	20,000	11
		0	0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$20,000	\$19,989	\$11	\$20,000	\$11