



LCMR 2003 PROJECT ABSTRACTS

M.L. 2003, Chapter 128, Article 1, Section 9 (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2005 or 2006)

The following documents are short abstracts for projects funded during the 2004-2005 biennium. The final date of completion for these projects is listed at the end of the abstract. When available, we have provided links to a projects web site. The sites linked to on this page are not created, maintained, or endorsed by the LCMR office or the Minnesota Legislature. If you would like further information about specific projects, please contact the appropriate program manager at the address or phone number listed.

Subd. 3 - Administration

03(a) **Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources**

03(b) **LCMR Study Commission on the Park System**

03(c) **Contract Administration**

Subd. 4 - Advisory Committee

Subd. 5 - Fish & Wildlife Habitat

05(a) **Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors - Phase II**

05(b) **Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors**

05(c) **Restoring RIM Match**

05(d) **Acquisition & Development of Scientific and Natural Areas**

05(e) **Forest and Prairie Stewardship of Public & Private Lands**

05(f) **Local Initiative Grants (Conservation Partners & Env. Partnerships)**

05(g) **Minnesota ReLeaf Community Forest Development and Protection**

05(h) **Developing Pheromones for Use in Carp Control - *Research***

05(i) 1 **Biological Control of European Buckthorn and Spotted Knapweed - *Research***

05(i) 2 **Biological Control of European Buckthorn and Spotted Knapweed - *Research***

05(i) **Resources for Redevelopment of Brownfields to Greenspace**

Subd. 6 - Recreation

06(a) **State Park and Recreation Area Land Acquisition**

06(b) **LAWCON Federal Reimbursements**

06(c) **Local Initiative Grants (Parks and Natural Areas)**

06(d) **Metropolitan Regional Parks Acquisition, Rehabilitation and**

06(e) **Local and Regional Trail Grant Initiative Program**

06(f) **Gitchi-Gami State Trail**

06(g) **Water Recreation: Boat Access, Fishing Piers & Shorefishing**

06(h) **Mesabi Trail**

06(i) **Linking Communities Design, Technology & DNR Trail Resources**

06(i) **Ft. Ridgely Historic Site Interpretive Trail**

06(k) **Development and Rehabilitation of Minnesota Shooting Ranges**

06(l) **Land Acquisition, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - continuation**

Subd. 7 - Water Resources

07(a) **Local Water Planning (LWP) Matching Challenge Grants**

07(b) **Accelerating & Enhancing Surface Water Monitoring for Lakes & Streams**

07(c) **Intercommunity Groundwater Protection**

07(d) **TAPwaters: Technical Assistance Program for Watersheds**

07(e)1 **Wastewater Phosphorus Control and Reduction Initiative - *Research***

07(e)2 **Wastewater Phosphorus Control and Reduction Initiative - *Research***

07(f) Maintaining Zooplankton (Daphnia) for Water Quality: Square Lake - ResearchSubd. 8 - Land Use and Natural Resource Information08(a) Minnesota County Biological Survey08(b) Updating Outmoded Soil Survey08(c)1 Mesabi Iron Range Geologic & Hydrologic Maps & Data Bases08(c)2 Mesabi Iron Range Geologic & Hydrologic Maps & Data BasesSubd. 9 - Agriculture & Natural Resource Industries09 Native Plants and Alternative Crops for Water Quality - ResearchSubd. 10 - Energy10(a) Community Energy Development Program10(b) Advancing Utilization of Manure Methane Digester ElectricalSubd. 11 - Environmental Education11(a) Dodge Nature Center - Restoration Plan11(b) Bucks and Buckthorn: Engaging Young Hunters in Restoration11(c) Putting Green Environmental Adventure Park: SustainabilitySubd. 12 - Children's Environmental Education12(a) Healthy Schools: Indoor Air Quality and Asthma Management12(b) Economic-based Analysis of Children's Environmental Health Risks12(c) Continuous Indoor Air Quality Monitoring in MN Schools

Funding Sources: (**note: all projects are TF, unless otherwise noted)

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (TF)

Oil Overcharge (OOC)

Great Lakes Protection Account (GLP)

ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

03(a) \$ 672,000

John Velin, Director

LCMR

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.

65 - State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651)296-2406**Fax:** (651)296-1321**E-mail:** lcmr@commissions.leg.state.mn.us**Web:** <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcmr/lcmr.htm>

For the Administrative Budget for expenses of the LCMR. In addition, carryforward from 02-03 of \$196,000 for administrative expenses.

This project completed: 6/30/2005

LCMR Study Commission on the Park System

03(b) \$26,000

John Velin, Director

LCMR

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.

65 - State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

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E-mail: lcmr@commissions.leg.state.mn.us
Web: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcmr/lcmr.htm>

Evaluate the use of fees to assist the financial stability and the potential of fees to provide for self-sufficiency in Minnesota's park systems, including state parks, metropolitan regional parks, and rural regional parks in greater Minnesota. The study commission will report to the chairs of the senate and house environment finance committees by February 16, 2004. Copy of the report on the LCCMR website:

<http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcmr/Parks%20Study%20Comm/study%20page.htm> and available in the LCCMR office.

This project completed: 2/16/2004

Contract Administration

03(c) \$120,000

Bill Becker
DNR, Office of Management and Budget Services
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 296-2406
Fax: (651)296-1321
E-mail: bill.becker@dnr.state.mn.us

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Recipients, on the whole, provided requested information for reimbursement. There have been few if any problems with the written instructions. Recipients also seem to grasp the force of the work program and are improving their understanding of the work program and related fiscal controls. There still seem to be some issues in transferring the information from work program Attachment A to the Reimbursement Request Spreadsheet. It may be that reformatting is in order for future years. For example, we could convert the Reimbursement Request Spreadsheet from a horizontal alignment to a vertical alignment to differentiate it from Attachment A.

The agreement form was revised for 2005 appropriations. It appears to be fairly stable now, not needing significant revision unless the revised Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota resources sees a need for changes. New recipients were briefed on the agreement and the process for requesting reimbursements, however we recommend a refresher course for long time recipients.

Reimbursements were provided quickly to minimize cash flow problems. As we transfer to 2005, open projects include appropriations from M.L. of 1999 and 2005.

Appropriations from 2003 closed in June 30th of 2006. The project now has 55 agreements under management

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The financial administration of these projects is subject to audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor and the DNR auditor (at DNR expense). The Office of the Legislative Auditor selected a sample of these projects to audit as part of a performance audit of the executive branch administration of grants to non-governmental organizations. That audit is due out in January,2007.

This project completed: 6/30/2006

ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Citizen Advisory Committee for the Trust Fund**

04 \$45,000

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
65 - State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 296-2406

Fax: (651)296-1321

E-mail: lcmr@commissions.leg.state.mn.us

Web: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcmr/lcmr.htm>

For expenses of the citizen advisory committee for the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.06. The committee is appointed by the Governor and consists of 11 members, at least 1 from each of the 8 MN Congressional Districts.

In M.L. 2005, 1st Special Session, Chp. 7, Sec. 37 the appropriation was transferred to the advisory task force in Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 156.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors - Phase II

05(a) \$4,850,000

Matt Holland

Pheasants Forever and 14 Organizations

679 W. River

New London, MN 56273

Phone: (320) 354-4377

Fax: (320) 354-4377

E-mail: ringneck@tds.net

The mission of the Habitat Corridors Partnership is to restore, enhance and conserve habitat corridors for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. This report and additional information can be uploaded on the web at <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>.

The Habitat Corridors Partnership includes: Ducks Unlimited, Fond du Lac Reservation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, MN Deer Hunters Association, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Land Trust, MN 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 Services, and U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The intent of the partnership was to use existing programs and partners to build upon existing investments in habitat to enhance fish, wildlife and plant populations, strengthen migration pathways, improve genetic stocks, and restore the integrity of natural communities. Eleven project areas were identified where Habitat Corridors Partners work was completed. The partnership used three primary methods to achieve partnership goals within the project areas: habitat restoration, habitat easements, and fee-title acquisition. All projects were completed on public lands or with the cooperation of willing private landowner partners.

OVERALL PHASE II ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partners completed a total of 368 (13) projects impacting 28,304 acres (10,825 TF, 17,479 Other Funds). Partners expended a total of \$24,527,846 (\$4,681,430 TF, \$19,846,415 Other Funds).

RESTORATION

Partners completed a total of 243 (13) projects enhancing or restoring a total of 17,182.7 acres (9,066 TF, 8,116 Other Funds). Partners expended a total of \$3,679,971 (\$1,293,902 TF, \$2,386,068 Other Funds).

EASEMENT

Partners acquired a total of 80 easements for a total of 7,160 acres (982 Grant, 6,178 Other Funds). Partners expended a total of \$15,427,065 (\$1,281,999 TF, \$14,145,066 Other Funds).

ACQUISITIONS

Partners acquired 38 parcels for a total of 3,961 acres (776 Grant, 3,184 Other Funds). Partners expended a total of \$4,994,715 (\$1,975,339 TF, \$3,019,375 Other Funds).

PROJECT COORDINATING & MAPPING

Pheasants Forever, Inc. provided project coordination for the Phase II Habitat Corridors Partnership. Community GIS Services of Duluth was contracted to do mapping and data management. One significant accomplishment included the development of an online reporting system. This system provides for a synthesis of fiscal, accomplishment, and mapping accomplishment reporting via an easy to use online reporting framework. A total of \$130,188 (TF) was expended on project coordination and mapping.

This project completed: 6/30/2006

Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors

05(b) \$4,850,000

Kate Drewry

DNR

1200 Warner Rd

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: (651) 772-7946

Fax: (651) 772-7977

E-mail: kate.drewry@dnr.state.mn.us

Through the Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors (MWC) partnership, 13 organizations (Ducks Unlimited, Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust, Inc., Minnesota Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, DNR – Regional Operations (Metro Greenways), DNR – Division of Ecological Services, DNR – Division of Fisheries, DNR – Division of Forestry, DNR – Division of Wildlife, Rice Creek Watershed District, and City of Ramsey) restored 2,297 acres of habitat including 2 miles of shoreline, and protected through conservation easements and/or fee title acquisition 2,219 acres of regionally significant habitat including 6 miles of shoreline; all in targeted locations within a regional framework of science-based, interconnected focus areas. The \$4.5 million of Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars spent leveraged an additional \$19.3 million in private, local and federal funds, plus \$2.4 million in other state funds to achieve these results.

By coordinating land protection and restoration efforts within a regional framework of focus areas, resource management agencies, nonprofits, local government units and other stakeholders developed beneficial synergies and built upon each other's efforts.

Partners collaborated through regular partner meetings and communications. A database and GIS tools were used to identify target project areas and document the work of the partners. Local involvement was facilitated through outreach to stakeholders in the focus areas, who were provided with natural resource information and technical assistance to help them develop and participate in conservation projects. The "Conservation Corridors" poster/brochure was completed and widely distributed as an outreach and educational tool.

This project completed: 6/30/2006

Restoring RIM Match

05(c) \$400,000

Kim Hennings

DNR

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 297-2823

Fax: (651) 297-4961

E-mail: kim.hennings@dnr.state.mn.us

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program provides an opportunity for private individuals, groups, and businesses to help fund the acquisition or improvement of critical fish, wildlife, and native plant habitats. Private contributions of land, easements, or cash to this program are matched dollar-for-dollar by state funds. The state matching dollars are used to acquire or develop other critical natural resource habitat.

This project generated \$400,000 in private donations to the State that included \$17,400 in cash and \$355,600 in land donations as well as \$27,000 in contributions from the Nongame Checkoff Program. Donations involved 359 acres of land that were designated as 7 state wildlife management (WMA) and 2 state aquatic management areas. Trust fund dollars used to match these donations funded 7 land purchases totaling 239 acres in 7 WMAs and one forest hardwood seeding project. All of these lands will permanently protect critical habitat and provide additional opportunities for public hunting, fishing, and other compatible outdoor recreational activities.

The Nongame Program matched \$27,000 of trust fund dollars to help fund a survey and assessment of prairie birds, especially rare species, inhabiting 18 Scientific and Natural Areas on prairie tracts in NW MN, and an additional 7 sites on lands with Prairie Bank easements. The trust fund dollars for this prairie bird survey generated \$27,000 in federal matching funds under the "State Wildlife Grants" program for "species in greatest conservation need." A research report will be published and available from the DNR Nongame Research Program and on the DNR website.

