

## **2008 Project Abstract – Final Report**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

### **TITLE: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors – Phase 5, Habitat Corridors Partnership - Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (2b)**

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Sheldon Myerchin

**ORGANIZATION:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**ADDRESS (City, State, Zip):** 434 Great Oak Drive, Waite Park, MN 56387

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**FUND:** Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 2008 First Special Session, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3c.

### **APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$30,000.00**

#### Overall Project Outcome and Results

Since 1987, the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program has restored more than 16,000 drained wetlands (73,000 acres) and more than 1,200 upland sites (52,000 acres) to native grasses and forbs, on private lands in Minnesota. Through its Partners Program, the USFWS works with other federal and state agencies, local units of government, tribal entities, conservation organizations, and individual landowners to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitats on private land. This program emphasizes restoring habitats and native vegetation for fish and wildlife in concert with the goals of individual private landowners. These projects also benefit the general public by providing habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants; improving water quality and watershed health; reducing non-point source pollution; and creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and education.

The \$30,000 of Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Trust Fund) funding accelerated the USFWS' existing Partners Program with an additional voluntary restoration or enhancement of 13 wetland basins covering 85.7 acres of wetland habitat and five grassland sites covering 197.5 acres of upland habitat. With this funding, a total of ten projects were completed on private land within HCP Project Areas 1, 3-7-8, 4, 6, and 10. These Trust Funds were expended from July 2008 through November 2009. One additional upland site covering 27 acres which had Trust Fund cost-shared wetland restorations was restored to native prairie vegetation utilizing Other Funds.

Under the Partners Program, wetlands are restored or enhanced by plugging or filling drainage ditches, removing excess sediment, breaking up sub-surface tile systems, embankment construction, and/or installing water control structures. Upland grassland areas are restored or enhanced by removing invasive woody vegetation and re-seeding former cropland to a native prairie seed mixture. All seeded areas complied with requirements to utilize local native ecotype seed as available.

Project selection for Trust Fund cost-share via the Partners Program is based on the project's contribution to building wetland and upland habitat complexes or corridors and/or restoring or enhancing native habitats in the focus project areas.

The USFWS committed \$30,000 in matching funds to support this overall project, but a total of \$78,855 was expended. These funds were used to provide cost-share on all projects funded with Trust Fund dollars and also to fund the one additional upland native prairie restoration project.

#### Project Results, Use, and Dissemination

These projects were completed within the nine HCP Project Areas across the state of Minnesota. Without the willingness of the landowners involved, and the variety of other partners, this important wetland, upland and river/riparian wildlife habitat would not be restored. Numerous presentations including the Trust Fund habitat restoration information have been made over the past nine years at various meetings including Minnesota State

Private Lands Meeting, the Wetland Summit, the Shallow Lakes Forum, MNDNR Roundtable, and at Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lion's Club presentations. One project completed with Trust Fund dollars was also featured on the Minnesota Bound television program hosted by Ron Schara.

**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

**2B:Partners for Wildlife - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

<b>Project Manager:</b>	Sheldon Myerchin	<b>Fund:</b> Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
<b>Affiliation:</b>	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	
<b>Address:</b>	434 Great Oak Drive Waite Park, MN 56387	
<b>Phone:</b>	(320)253-4682	<b>Legal Citation:</b> ML 2008 First Special Section, Ch. 367, Sec. 2 Subd. 3(c).
<b>Fax:</b>	(320) 253-0710	
<b>E-mail:</b>	sheldon_myerchin@fws.gov	

**Total Biennial Project Budget**

Result	ENTF Allocation	ENTF Funds Spent	ENTF Balance	Other Funds * Proposed	Other Funds * Spent
<b>Restoration</b>	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$78,855
<b>Total</b>	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$78,855

\*Other Funds are classified as non-state, non-state leveraged dollars (if partner funds are leveraging State Funds (e.g. RIM) they are not eligible to be considered Other Funds). Please note, however, that this work program has spent the following amounts not shown in the above table:

Other: \$9,525.00

See the tables and funding type definitions at the end of this report for further explanation.

**Work Program Summary**

**Overall Project Outcome and Results**

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The \$30,000.00 of Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Trust Fund) funding obtained through this work program, accelerated the USFWS' existing Partners Program with an additional voluntary restoration or enhancement of 13 wetland basins covering 85.7 acres of wetland habitat and five grassland sites covering 197.5 acres of upland habitat. With this funding, a total of ten projects were completed on private land within HCP Project Areas 1, 3-7-8, 4, 6, and 10. These Trust Funds were expended from July 2008 through November, 2009. One additional upland site covering 27 acres which had Trust Fund cost-shared wetland restorations was restored to native prairie vegetation utilizing Other Funds.

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**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

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**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

**2B:Partners for Wildlife - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Restoration Activities**

Project Area - 1 - Aspen Parklands

<b>Project Name:</b>	PLTNCGIR-Upland enhancement-Polk Co. Township: 149, Range: 44, Section: 27			
<b>Activity:</b>	Grassland Enhancement			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project enhanced 15 acres of prairie grassland by brush mowing woody vegetation encroaching into the prairie. Removal of the woody vegetation will allow for a more efficient prescribed fire to continue management of the prairie. This tract is protected in perpetuity by the landowner. The landowner and FWS are responsible for future maintenance and management of the habitat.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$1,200.00	8.28	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$975.00	6.72	0.00
<b>PLTNCGIR-Upland enhancement-Polk Co. Total</b>		<b>\$2,175.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

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Project Area - 3 - Border Prairie

<b>Project Name:</b>	PLWeJ-Upland enhancement-Pope Co. Township: 123, Range: 36, Section: 31			
<b>Activity:</b>	Grassland Enhancement			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project enhanced 70 acres of native prairie on private land through the removal of invasive woody vegetation. All the red cedar, hawthorn, siberian elm and buckthorn were cut from the native prairie. This project is protected by a 10-year agreement. The landowner and FWS are responsible for future maintenance and management.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$7,500.00	55.26	0.00
Other	Restoration	\$1,500.00	11.05	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$500.00	3.68	0.00
<b>PLWeJ-Upland enhancement-Pope Co. Total</b>		<b>\$9,500.00</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	PLCoDL-Upland Restoration-Becker Co. Township: 139, Range: 41, Section: 28			
<b>Activity:</b>	Grassland Restoration			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project restored 2 acres of prairie seeding with the City of Detroit Lakes. The project is protected by a 10-year agreement. The City of Detroit Lakes and the FWS are responsible for future maintenance and management. Seed for this project was harvested off of a native prairie remnant within 25 miles of the seeding site.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$1,000.00	0.80	0.00
Other	Restoration	\$1,000.00	0.80	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$500.00	0.40	0.00
<b>PLCoDL-Upland Restoration-Becker Co. Total</b>		<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	PLpfSpringCreek-Upland restoration-Becker Co. Township: 142, Range: 41, Section: 7			
<b>Activity:</b>	Grassland Restoration			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project restored 27 acres of native prairie by reseeding into former cropland on property owned in fee title by Pheasants Forever, which will eventually be transferred over to the MNDNR to be protected in perpetuity. The PF and the FWS are responsible for future maintenance and management, until the land is transferred to the MNDNR.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
Other Funds	Restoration	\$13,000.00	27.00	0.00

**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

**2B:Partners for Wildlife - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Project Name:** PLFitE-Upland Restoration-Clay Co.  
Township: 139, Range: 44, Section: 12

**Activity:** Grassland Enhancement

**Landtype:** Private - Land

**Description:** This project enhances 12.5 acres of native prairie on a FWS habitat easement that is protected in perpetuity. The site was burned and reseeded. Future maintenance and management on the property for the native prairie will be the responsibility of the FWS and the landowner. Seed for this project was hand harvested off of a native prairie remnant within 25 miles of the seeding site.

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$150.00	0.06	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$29,850.00	12.44	0.00
<b>PLFitE-Upland Restoration-Clay Co. Total</b>		<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Project Name:** PLBroD-Wetland Restoration-Clay Co.  
Township: 140, Range: 45, Section: 10

**Activity:** Wetland Restoration

**Landtype:** Private - Land

**Description:** Two wetlands were restored on private land by removing culverts in drainage ditches and replacing with texas type crossings to allow access to other areas of the tract. The texas crossings act as ditch plugs to limit flow out of the wetlands. This project is protected by a 10-year agreement with the landowner. The FWS and landowner are responsible for any future maintenance and management.

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$1,500.00	7.14	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$6,359.00	30.26	0.00
<b>PLBroD-Wetland Restoration-Clay Co. Total</b>		<b>\$7,859.00</b>	<b>37.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Project Name:** PLChrJ-Wetland Restoration-Becker Co.  
Township: 139, Range: 43, Section: 20

**Activity:** Wetland Restoration

**Landtype:** Private - Land

**Description:** This project restored one wetland basin for 2.1 acres by filling a drainage ditch and installing a rock rip-rap spillway to allow overflow during heavy run-off events. This project is protected by a perpetual easement held by FWS. The FWS and landowner are responsible for any future maintenance and management.

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$3,234.00	1.42	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$1,544.00	0.68	0.00
<b>PLChrJ-Wetland Restoration-Becker Co. Total</b>		<b>\$4,778.00</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Project Name:** PLpfSpringCreek-Wetland restoration-Becker Co.  
Township: 142, Range: 41, Section: 7

**Activity:** Wetland Restoration

**Landtype:** Private - Land

**Description:** Five wetlands were restored on this project covering 1.7 acres by scraping excess sediment from the wetland basins and filling the drainage ditches to near historical conditions. This tract is protected in perpetuity by Pheasants Forever and will eventually be transferred to the MN DNR to establish a WMA. Future maintenance and management will be the responsibility of Pheasants Forever and FWS until the property is transferred to MNDNR.

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$2,766.00	1.70	0.00

**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

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Project Area - 4 - Central Lakes

<b>Project Name:</b>	PLThoR-Wetland restoration-Aitkin Co. Township: 50, Range: 23, Section: 34			
<b>Activity:</b>	Wetland Restoration			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project restored a 25 acre wetland on private land through the construction of an embankment and sheet-pile weir across a drainage way that connected to a road ditch. This site had historically held wild rice and was heavily used by migrating waterfowl until an old highway structure failed several years ago and the wetland drained through the road ditch. This project is protected by a 10-year PFW agreement and the landowner is interested in longer term protection. The USFWS and landowner are responsible for future maintenance and management.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$4,550.00	6.06	0.00
Other	Restoration	\$7,025.00	9.36	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$7,183.00	9.57	0.00
<b>PLThoR-Wetland restoration-Aitkin Co. Total</b>		<b>\$18,758.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Project Area - 6 - Upper Minnesota River

<b>Project Name:</b>	PLSkjK-Upland enhancement-Lac Qui Parle Co. Township: 119, Range: 43, Section: 20			
<b>Activity:</b>	Grassland Enhancement			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project enhanced 98 acres of grassland which a portion is native prairie by removing invasive woody vegetation. This project is project is protected by a 10-year agreement. The USFWS and landowner are responsible for follow-up treatment of prescribed fire and chemical treatment if necessary.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$5,000.00	54.44	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$4,000.00	43.56	0.00
<b>PLSkjK-Upland enhancement-Lac Qui Parle Co. Tota</b>		<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>98.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Project Area - 9 - Des Moines River Valley

<b>Project Name:</b>	PLHofC-Wetland Restoration-Cottonwood Co. Township: 109, Range: 30, Section: 9			
<b>Activity:</b>	Wetland Restoration			
<b>Landtype:</b>	Private - Land			
<b>Description:</b>	This project restored three wetland basins and enhanced 1 wetland basin on private land totaling 19.5 acres. The wetlands were restored and enhanced by breaking an existing subsurface tile system and construction of an embankment across a drainage ditch. These restored/enhanced wetlands are surrounded by an additional 30 acres of grassland habitat. Project is protected by a 10-year agreement. The landowner and FWS are responsible for future maintenance and management.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$3,100.00	3.35	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$14,944.00	16.15	0.00
<b>PLHofC-Wetland Restoration-Cottonwood Co. Total</b>		<b>\$18,044.00</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**LCCMR Work Program Final Report**  
**Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5**  
**Habitat Conservation Partnership**

**2B:Partners for Wildlife - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Restoration Project Totals (By Funding Type)**

Funding Type	Funding Amount	Acres	Shoreline Feet
ENTF:	\$30,000.00	138.52	0.00
Other Funds:	\$78,855.00	150.46	0.00
Other:	\$9,525.00	21.22	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$118,380.00</b>	<b>310.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>

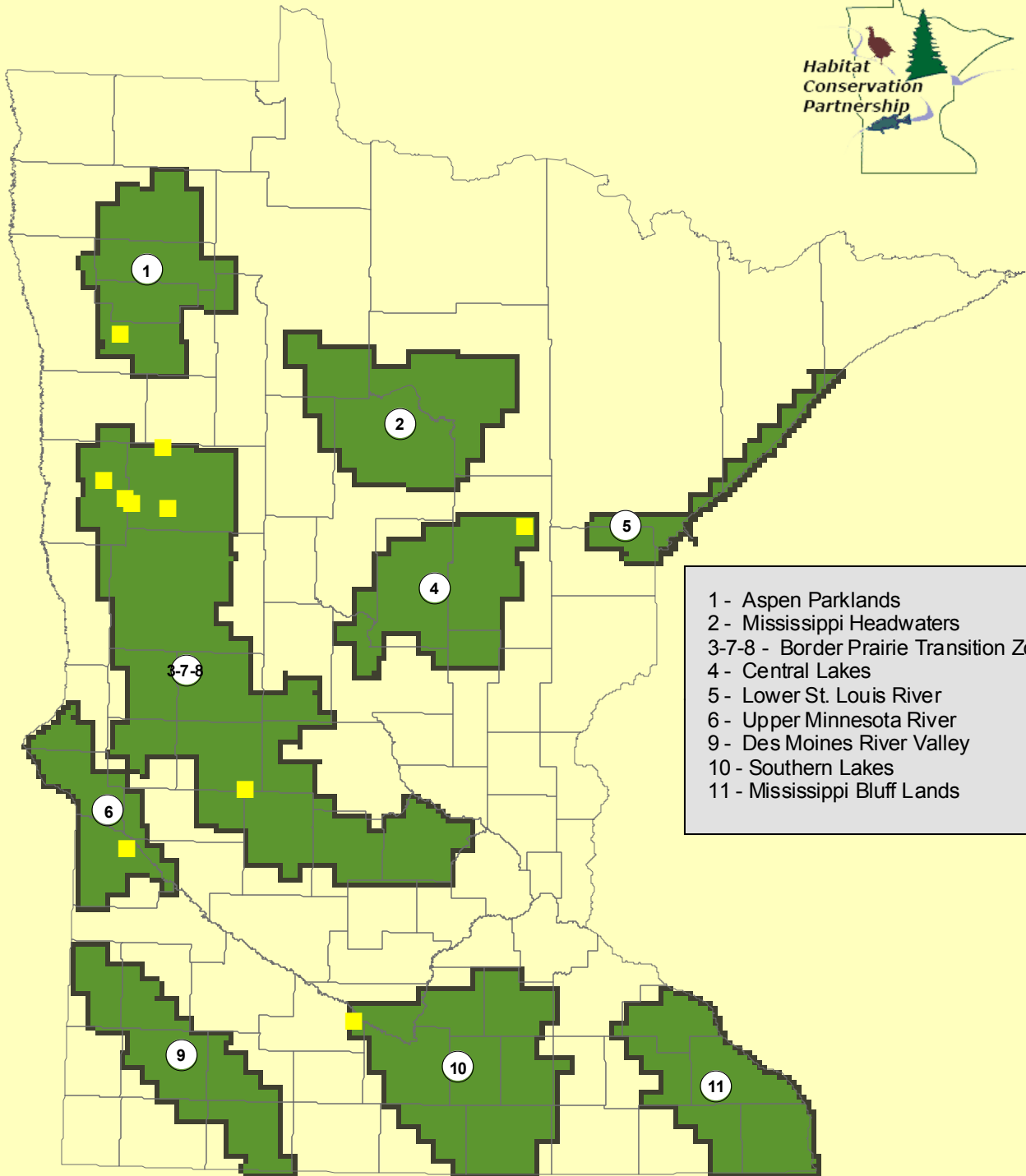
**Funding Type Definitions**

<b>ENTF:</b>	Grant dollars provided through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
<b>Other Funds:</b>	Non-state, non-state leveraged dollars (if partner funds are leveraging State Funds (e.g. RIM) they are not eligible to be considered Other Funds)
<b>State Funds:</b>	State Funds expended on HCP projects (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
<b>Partner's State Leveraged Funds:</b>	Non State Funds that have leveraged State Funds as part of an HCP project (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
<b>Other:</b>	Any other expenditures (e.g. grant income funds)

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects - Summary and a Budget				- Final							
Project Title: Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership - Phase V, Partners for Fish and Wildlife (2b)											
Project Manager Name: Sheldon Myerchin											
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$30,000											
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet											
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable											
2008 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (11/01/09)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 3 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
				Fill in your result title here.			Fill in your result title here.				
BUDGET ITEM - Restoration	30,000		30,000			0			0	30,000	30,000
See Restoration Activities Sheet for Project Expenditure Breakdown			0			0			0	0	0
Restoration			0			0			0	0	0
Project Area 1 Aspen Parklands		1,200	-1,200			0			0	0	-1,200
Project Area 2 Mississippi Headwaters			0			0			0	0	0
Project Area 3-7-8 Prairie Forest Transition Zone		16,150	-16,150			0			0	0	-16,150
Project Area 4 Central Lakes		4,550	-4,550			0			0	0	-4,550
Project Area 5 Lower St. Louis River			0			0			0	0	0
Project Area 6 Upper Minnesota River		5,000	-5,000			0			0	0	-5,000
Project Area 9 Des Moines River Valley			0			0			0	0	0
Project Area 10 Southern lakes		3,100	-3,100			0			0	0	-3,100
Project Area 11 Mississippi Bluff Lands			0			0			0	0	0
			0			0			0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0

# Habitat Conservation Partnership Partners for Wildlife

2B



- 1 - Aspen Parklands
- 2 - Mississippi Headwaters
- 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone
- 4 - Central Lakes
- 5 - Lower St. Louis River
- 6 - Upper Minnesota River
- 9 - Des Moines River Valley
- 10 - Southern Lakes
- 11 - Mississippi Bluff Lands

Restorations Easements Acquisitions