

LCCMR Work Program Final Report

Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 3 Habitat Conservation Partnership

4C: Critical Lands Protection Program - Trust for Public Land

Project Manager: Susan Schmidt **Fund:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Affiliation: Trust for Public Land

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Ch. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11 Subd. 5a

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Total Biennial Project Budget

Result	Environmental Trust Fund	Environmental Trust Funds Spent	Environmental Trust Balance	Other Funds Proposed	Other Funds Spent
Acquisition	\$425,000.00	\$425,000.00	\$0.00	\$116,000.00	\$677,270.00
Total	\$425,000.00	\$425,000.00	\$0.00	\$116,000.00	\$677,270.00

Work Program Summary

Overall Project Outcome and Results

In Phase III of HCP, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) sought to protect approximately 103 acres of high quality habitat to help link together a broader network of valuable habitat in Minnesota. TPL exceeded that goal and conserved 123 acres of critical habitat leveraging substantial other resources. In December of 2006, TPL used \$100,000 of Phase III monies to partially fund the acquisition of 63 acres on the Mississippi River in Crow Wing County. The property was simultaneously conveyed to the City of Baxter for creation of a natural resource-based regional park to serve one of the most rapidly growing communities in the Midwest. The property contains 1/2 mile of frontage on the Mississippi River, which, together with jack pine woodlands, jack pine savannah, and non-forested wetlands, make this an important site for many state species in greatest need of conservation, including Blanding's Turtles and red-shouldered hawk. On March 30, 2007, TPL used \$325,000 of Phase III monies to partially fund the acquisition of 60 acres on Dead Lake in Otter Tail County. The land was simultaneously conveyed to the Minnesota DNR for use as a Wildlife Management Area. The parcel contains nearly a mile of shoreline and connects two existing WMA parcels providing critical habitat for wildlife and fish and outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities for the public.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Press releases were issued in connection with the two transactions referenced above that were also posted on TPL's website. See http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21092&folder_id=482, and http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21369&folder_id=482. A number of articles also ran in the local press about these transactions.

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Acquisition Activities

Project Name: Dead Lake WMA
Project Area: 3 - Border Prairie
Description: The Trust for Public Land (TPL) conveyed approximately 60 acres with almost a mile of pristine shoreline on Dead Lake in Otter Tail County to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on March 30, 2007. The land will be managed by the DNR and connects two parts of the existing Dead Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Contrary to its name, Dead Lake is actually teeming with fish and supports an abundance of waterfowl and other wildlife. At almost 8,000 acres, Dead Lake is the largest Natural Environment lake in the state. The Dead Lake Wildlife Management Area will now consist of over 660 acres, miles of shoreline on Dead Lake and a small waterfowl interior lake. With miles of lakeshore and abundant wetlands and uplands, this sensitive natural area provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including migrating and nesting waterfowl. It also provides great public recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife observation.

For years members of the Dead Lake Association had expressed concern over a proposed 247-acre development on Dead Lake called Blue Heron Bay. The dispute reached the Minnesota Supreme Court before being remanded for further proceedings. In early 2006, TPL learned that the 60 most environmentally sensitive acres could be sold separately and proposed a conservation solution to this contentious issue. The Dead Lake Association and the landowner were also able to negotiate important restrictions on development of the balance of the project which will greatly mitigate its impact on the lake. In the end, the project had broad based support from multiple sources including the DNR Commissioner's Office, local state legislators, and Otter Tail County, in addition to the lake association and the landowner. TPL was grateful to be able to help resolve part of a longstanding dispute and reach a conservation resolution with which everyone is happy.

TPL purchased the property for \$1,445,000 (\$55,000 less than its appraised fair market value of \$1.5 million). TPL was able to sell the land to the DNR for \$942,730 by contributing \$177,320 in grant proceeds under the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA)[1] and \$325,000 in Habitat Corridor Partnership (HCP) funds [2]. The DNR's \$942,730 came from a variety of sources, including bonding dollars, Clean Water Legacy Act funds, and Critical Habitat license plate funds through the Reinvestment in Minnesota (RIM) Match Program. The RIM dollars were made available as a result of partial donations of land value.

[1] The NAWCA award was part of a collaborative effort led by Pheasants Forever called the North America Tallgrass Prairie Wetland Conservation Initiative III project. TPL thanks Pheasants Forever for its support and leadership.

[2] Funding for the Habitat Corridor Partnership was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR).

			Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
Non-Prorated Totals:			60.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	4,703.00	0.00
Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ETF	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$325,000.00	13.00	4.33	4.33	4.33	1,018.98	0.00
Other Funds	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$177,270.00	7.09	2.36	2.36	2.36	555.80	0.00

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State Funds	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$942,730.00	37.71	12.57	12.57	12.57	2,955.77	0.00
Partners State Leveraged Funds	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$55,000.00	2.20	0.73	0.73	0.73	172.44	0.00
Total:		\$1,500,000.00	60.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	4,703.00	0.00

Project Name: Mississippi River Overlook
Tract: Barrett
Project Area: 4 - Central Lakes
Description: The Trust for Public Land purchased and helped secure funding for the conveyance of 63 acres of land to the City of Baxter in Crow Wing County.

Over half a mile of this property fronts the Mississippi River and serves as the viewshed for Crow Wing State Park on the river's opposite shore.

Mississippi River Overlook, as it is known, is home to a variety of species in need of protection, including the Blandings Turtle, the gray wolf and red-shouldered hawk. Additional species inhabiting the future park include bald eagles, deer, red and gray fox, and mink. The area also hosts significant vegetation and native plants desired for protection by both the Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy.

The City proposes a paved trail along the northern border of the site in an already cleared area to connect with the Brainerd trailhead of the Paul Bunyan State Trail. An unpaved path will extend from that paved trail through jack pine woodlands down to the River.

The Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy each contributed \$100,000 in ETF funding to the project.

			Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
Non-Prorated Totals:			63.00	13.00	48.00	3.50	0.00	2,700.00
Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ETF	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$100,000.00	5.25	1.08	4.00	0.29	0.00	225.00
Other Funds	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$240,000.00	12.60	2.60	9.60	0.70	0.00	540.00
Other Funds	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$260,000.00	13.65	2.82	10.40	0.76	0.00	585.00
State Funds	Fee-Title Acquisition Costs	\$500,000.00	26.25	5.42	20.00	1.46	0.00	1,125.00
Total:		\$1,100,000.00	57.75	11.92	44.00	3.21	0.00	2,475.00

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Acquisition Project Totals							
Funding Type	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ETF	\$425,000.00	18.25	5.42	8.33	4.63	1,018.98	225.00
Other Funds	\$677,270.00	33.34	7.78	22.36	3.82	555.80	1,125.00
State Funds	\$1,442,730.00	63.96	17.99	32.57	14.03	2,955.77	1,125.00
Partner's State Leveraged Funds	\$55,000.00	2.20	0.73	0.73	0.73	172.44	0.00
Other	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	\$2,600,000.00	117.75	31.92	64.00	23.21	4,703.00	2,475.00

Work Program Expenditures Breakdown

Expenditure	ETF Funds	Other Funds	State Funds	Partners State Leveraged Funds	Other
Acquisition Projects	\$425,000.00	\$677,270.00	\$1,442,730.00	\$55,000.00	\$0.00
Not Attributable to Specific Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$425,000.00	\$677,270.00	\$1,442,730.00	\$55,000.00	\$0.00

Funding Type Definitions

ETF:	Grant dollars provided through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Other Funds:	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)
State Funds:	State Funds expended on HCP projects (not eligible for use as other funds commitment)
Partners State Leveraged Funds:	Non state funds that have leveraged state funds as part of an HCP project (not eligible for use as other funds commitment)
Other:	Any other expenditures (e.g. grant income funds)

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Projects FINAL

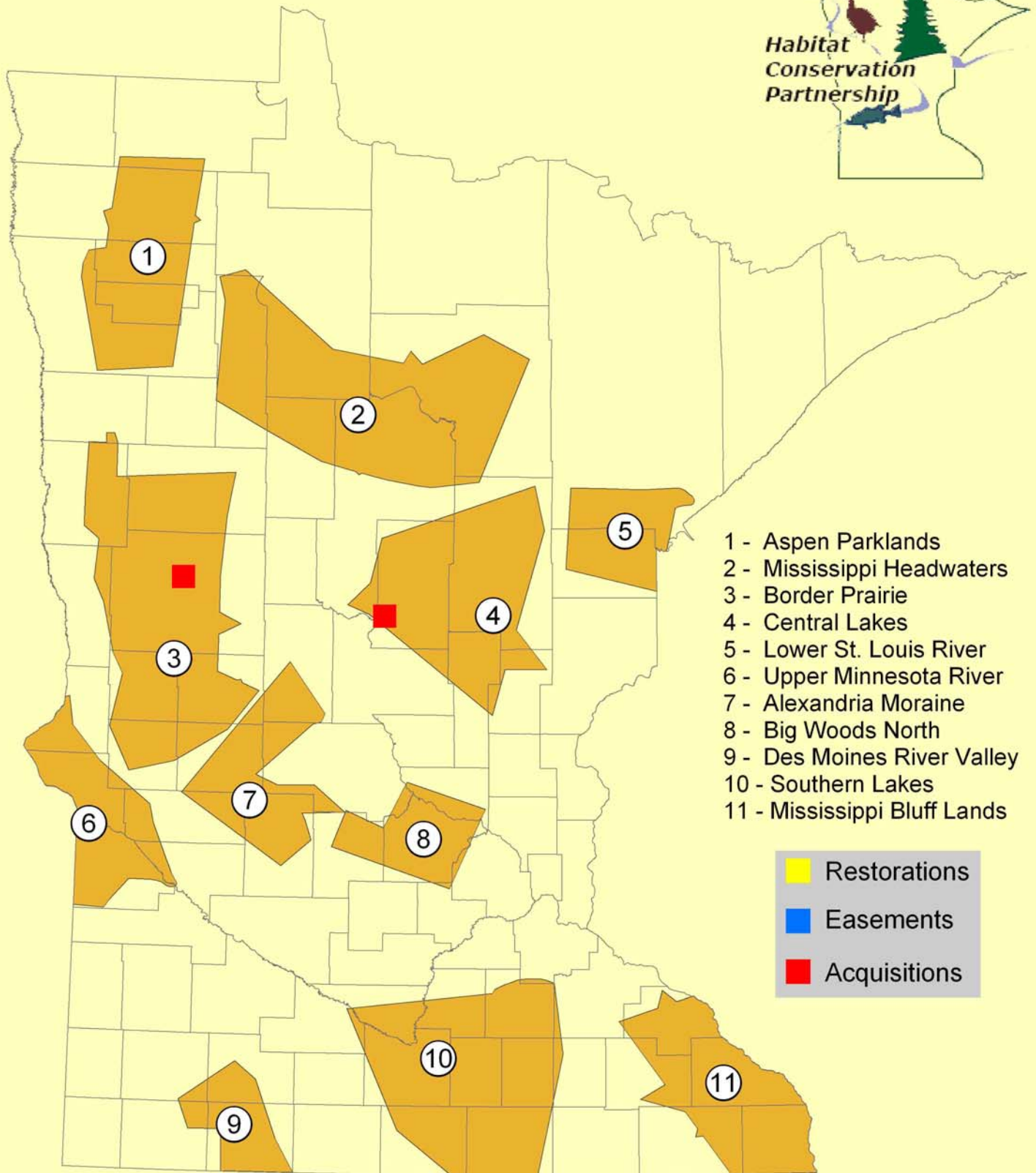
Proposal Title: Habitat Corridors Partnership Project Phase III - TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program (4c)

Project Manager Name: Susan Schmidt

LCMR Requested Dollars: \$425,000

2003 LCMR Proposal Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u> <u>Habitat Acquisition</u> <u>programs</u>	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM	Acquisition		TOTAL FOR BUDGET ITEM
Land acquisition (estimate is 103 acres)	400,000	425,000	0
TPL transaction costs (1)	25,000	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	425,000	425,000	0
(1) TPL transaction costs include the costs of appraisals, legal fees, environmental assessments, title, surveys, closing costs. Project costs were paid by TPL. No reimbursement was sought from the ENTFF. On 3/21/07, LCCMR informed TPL that it was ok to use funds previously allocated to transaction cost for direct land acquisition capital.			

Habitat Conservation Partnership 4C - Phase III Accomplishments -Critical Lands Protection Program- *Trust for Public Land*



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

- Restorations
- Easements
- Acquisitions