



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

Date of Status Update:

Date of Next Status Update: 5/1/2012

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: Steve Mortenson

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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 \$:	0
	Balance \$:	50,000

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.

Date of Progress Report: August 22, 2011- Work Program Amendment Request

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

II. PROJECT SUMMARY: This project addresses losses or degradation of aquatic habitat that has historically supported abundant wild rice (*Zizania* L.) and waterfowl across the Leech Lake Reservation (LLR) in north-central Minnesota. Approximately 13,000 acres of natural wild rice in shallow lakes, marshes, and forested impoundments on the LLR provide food, refuge, and nesting opportunities for numerous species of waterfowl, fish, and other animals. Natural wild rice is a key element of Ojibwe culture and is highly valued by Leech Lake Band members spiritually, culturally, and economically. The high value of wild rice habitat for fish and wildlife is well-documented and has been long recognized by diverse stakeholders of Minnesota resources.

The overall goal of this project is to conserve and enhance natural *Zizania* habitat on the LLR and the native species of waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife that rely on it. This project builds on recent and current projects conducted by LLR Division of Resource Management (LLDRM) through which we developed and are refining methodology and technical capacity to enhance and monitor wild rice habitat across the LLR. With 2011-2012 ENRTF support, we will continue to regulate water levels in existing impoundments and waterways, reseed restored habitat with local wild rice (approx. 200 additional acres); and acquire, digitize, and analyze aerial imagery for 2011 and 2012 acreage of natural wild rice on LLR (approx. 13,000 acres/yr). The specific goals of this project directly extend a current LLDRM project supported by *2010 ENRTF funding. Here we propose to implement our *refined methodology for interpreting wild rice on aerial imagery; to implement adaptive management based on our *trend analyses of wild rice and waterfowl abundance; and to work with MNDNR-led Wild Rice Working Groups to standardize region-wide monitoring and enhancement of wild rice/waterfowl habitat.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of *(May 1, 2012):*

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

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

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

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 dependant 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 where work is planned include Cuba (44 acres); Brush Lake (13 acres); Bear Brook (18 acres); Lucille (26 acres); Upper Third River (28 acres). 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: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 7092

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. <i>Water level control and management on existing forested impoundments and waterways. Includes control of beaver activity, and periodic drawdown's.</i>	June 30, 2013	\$7092

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2012):

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

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2013):

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

Final Report Summary: Aug. 1, 2013

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: \$ 3000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 3000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. <i>Native wild rice reseeding on restored habitat (200 additional acres).</i>	June 30, 2013	\$3000

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2012):

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

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2013):

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

Final Report Summary: Aug. 1, 2013

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

Description: Digitizing and interpreting 2011 and 2012 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); 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.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 39908
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 39908

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
<i>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.</i>	June 30, 2013	\$39908

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):

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

Activity Status as of (May 1, 2013):

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

Final Report Summary: Aug. 1, 2013

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. 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)

Status as of (Nov. 1, 2012):

Status as of (May 1, 2013):

Status as of (Aug. 1, 2013):

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel: All (for 2 years)		
Plant Ecologist (15% FTE)	\$ 19,042	Rice monitoring portion of project.
GIS Specialist (10% FTE)	\$ 10,243	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.	\$ 3,965	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		
USFS water level and rice management	\$ 10,000	\$	
In-Kind LLDRM, office space, indirect, project oversight, etc.	\$ 12,998		
State	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$47,998	\$	

Add or remove rows as needed

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, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

05042011

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects											
Project Title: 2e-HCP 7-Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring, \$50,000											
Legal Citation: Fill in your project's legal citation from the appropriation language											
Project Manager: Steve Mortensen											
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 50,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: July1, 2011-June 30, 2013											
Date of Update: May 13, 2011											
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Waterfowl habitat management and Imporvement			Native wild rice reseeding on restored habitat			Long-term monitoring and analysis of wild rice productivity				
Total Personnel Wages and Benefits	4004	0	4004	0	0	0	35,443	0	35,443	39,447	39,447
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)							19,042	0	19,042	19,042	19,042
Ecologist (15%FTE for 2 years, \$19,042)											
GIS Specialist (10% FTE for 2 years, \$10,243)							10,243	0	10,243	10,243	10,243
2 Field Technician Rice monitoring (3.8% FTE for 2 years, \$6,158)							6,158	0	6,158	6,158	6,158
2 Field Technician Imp. maintenance (2% FTE for 2 years, \$4,004)	4,004	0	4,004							4,004	4,004
Professional/Technical Contracts (Aerial Rice photos)							3,965	0	3,965	3,965	3,965
Service contracts Heavy equipment for impoundment work	1,239		1,239							1,239	1,239
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	549		549							549	549
Clemson levelers \$549 per kit											
Steel for Impoundment grates and repairs	500		500							500	500
Stop logs, Misc. small parts and supplies for Imp.	300		300							300	300
Wild rice seed (2000 lbs and \$1.50)				3,000		3,000				3,000	3,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota	500		500				500		500	1,000	1,000
Mileage 1818 miles at 0.55/mile											
Other (Describe the activity and cost - be specific)											
COLUMN TOTAL	\$7,092	\$0	\$7,092	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$39,908	\$0	\$39,908	\$50,000	\$50,000

LCCMR Phase VII Maps

