

LCCMR Work Program Final Report
Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 4
Habitat Conservation Partnership

3G: Campaign for Conservation - Easements - The Nature Conservancy

Project Manager: Michael Pressman **Fund:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Affiliation: The Nature Conservancy

Address: 1101 West River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55415 **Legal Citation:** ML 2007, Ch. 30, Sec. 2, Sub 4(b)

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Total Biennial Project Budget

Result	ENTF Balance	ENTF Funds Spent	ENTF Balance	Other Funds * Proposed	Other Funds * Spent
Easement	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$225
Total	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$225

*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:

State Funds: \$116,438.82

Other: \$33,745.60

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

Work Program Summary

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Nature Conservancy uses a rigorous planning process to preserve key properties for biological diversity called "Conservation by Design." This method provides for the identification of sites of high biodiversity significance on which to concentrate its financial resources for acquisition and restoration. The Conservancy prefers to acquire large tracts of land but will also assemble smaller properties to form larger blocks of habitat. To accomplish this goal on the landscape level, the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy partners with public agencies and other NGO's to locate and acquire such properties that achieve results at the large-scale and across multiple location targets. For its "Campaign for Conservation," the Conservancy proposes to acquire and retain in fee title up to 125 acres (with ETF funds; Conservancy will provide the remaining funds as needed) in one or several blocks to re-connect fragmented landscapes; acquire conservation easements on up to 200 acres of riparian lands; and restore 350 acres of wetlands, and existing protected prairie and savanna habitat.

The Conservancy initially received \$100,000 for conservation easement acquisition on an estimated 200 acres of riparian habitat in Project Areas 5 and 11. On January 18, 2008, TNC received permission to spend \$50,000 of these funds on either conservation easement acquisition or fee title acquisition under Work Program 4(g). After receiving approval, TNC re-allocated \$50,000 of these funds to a fee title acquisition project under Work Program 4(g) in Project Area 7. For the remaining \$50,000, TNC assisted the Board of Water and Soil Resources in acquiring a perpetual RIM Reserve conservation easement on 91.2 acres of riparian and upland habitat in Project Area 11.

In this time period, the Conservancy spent an additional \$225 of its private funds in transaction-related expenses for this conservation easement acquisition project. An additional \$33,745.60, the value of a donated easement on an additional 13.1 acres, was contributed toward this conservation easement acquisition project as "Other."

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Conservancy publicizes its work on these projects via press releases, membership publications, presentations and/or the Conservancy's website. The Conservancy has also participated in publicizing the overall accomplishments of the Habitat Corridors Partnership project as it has reached significant mile marks.

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Easement Activities

Project Name: Root River
Tract: Christopherson
Project Area: 11 - Mississippi Bluff Lands
Township: 104, Range: 11, Section: 14

Description: The property is located in Fillmore County at the confluence of the Root River and Rice Creek. The landowners granted a perpetual conservation easement over 91.2 acres of their larger ownership to the Board of Water and Soil Resources under the RIM Reserve Program. 45.2 acres of this easement property were eligible under the RIM Reserve Program as they were considered floodprone cropland. The remaining 46 acres included under the same RIM Reserve easement consists of riparian and upland forest habitat.

On December 8, 2008, the Conservancy granted \$50,000 of its Phase IV funding to BWSR to allow the agency to acquire an easement on an additional 32.9 acres. The landowners donated the balance of 13.1 acres, for a donated value of \$33,745.60.

Important conservation values of this property include a coldwater trout stream (Rice Creek) and steep bluff habitat that supports a maple-basswood, dry oak, and white pine hardwood forest community.

The Conservancy contributed \$225 in Other Funds for a government records report, required for an environmental assessment.

Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Grassland Acres</i>	<i>Woodland Acres</i>	<i>Wetland Acres</i>	<i>Shoreline Feet</i>	<i>Riparian Feet</i>
ENTF	Easement Acquisition Costs	\$50,000.00	22.78	11.29	5.00	6.49	0.00	2,090.57
Other	Donated Easement Value	\$33,745.60	15.37	7.62	3.37	4.38	0.00	1,410.95
Other Funds	Professional Services	\$225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Funds	Easement Acquisition Costs	\$116,438.82	53.05	26.29	11.63	15.12	0.00	4,868.48
Total:		\$200,409.42	91.20	45.20	80.00	26.00	0.00	8,370.00

Easement Totals (By Funding Type)

Funding Type:	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	\$50,000.00	22.78	11.29	20.00	6.49	0.00	2,090.57
Other Funds	\$225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Funds	\$116,438.82	53.05	26.29	11.63	15.12	0.00	4,868.48
Other	\$33,745.60	15.37	45.20	3.37	4.38	0.00	1,410.95
Total	\$200,409.42	91.20	45.20	20.00	26.00	0.00	8,370.00

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Funding Type Definitions

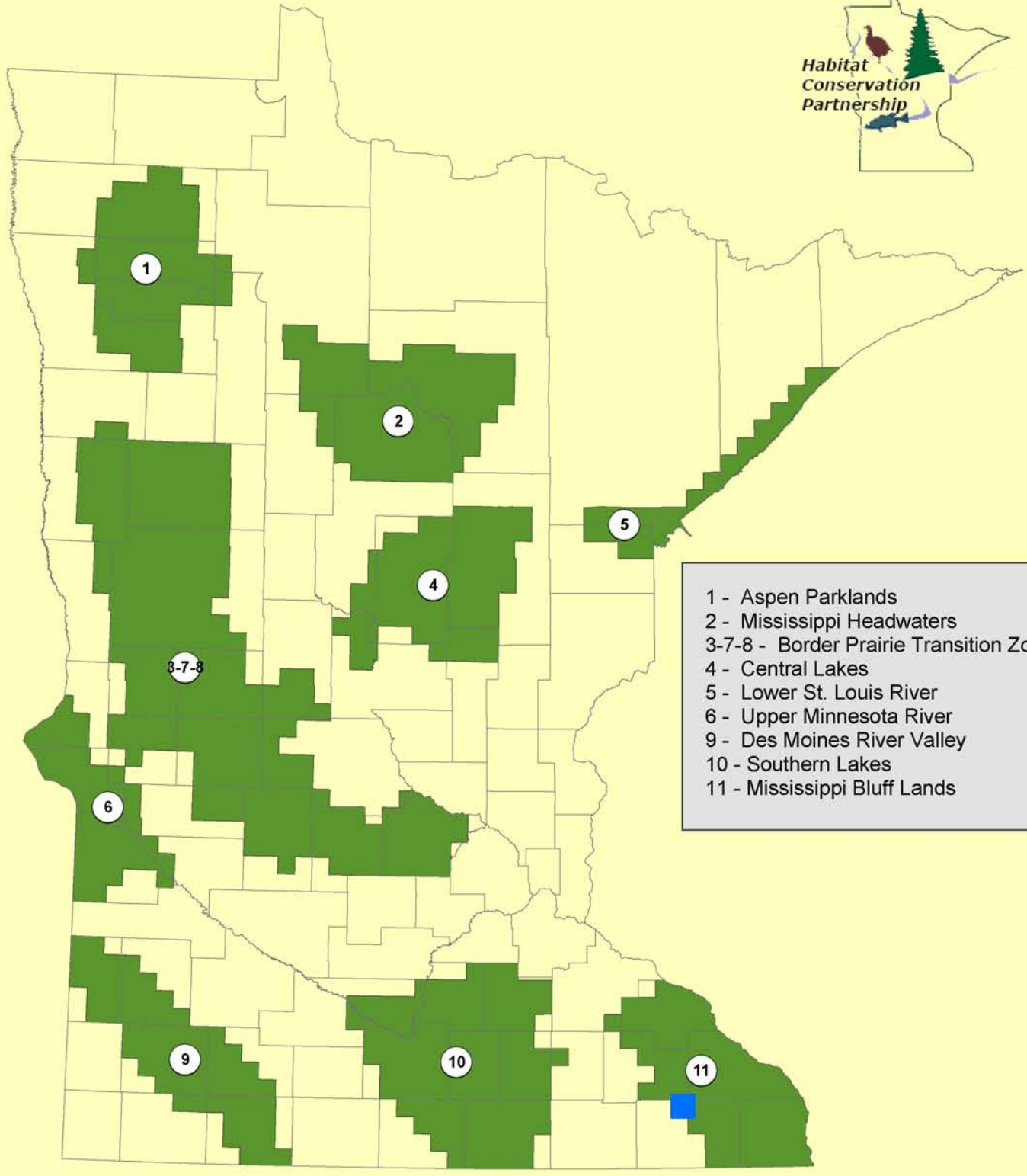
ENTF:	Grant dollars provided through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Other Funds:	Non-state, non-state leveraged dollars (if partner funds are leveraging State Funds (e.g. RIM) they are not eligible to be considered Other Funds)
State Funds:	State Funds expended on HCP projects (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
Partner's 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 2007 Projects**Project Title:** TNC's 'Campaign for Conservation' – 2(n), 3(g), 4(g)**Project Manager Name:** Michael Pressman**Trust Fund Appropriation:** \$430,000

2007 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	Result 3 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Land acquisition			Conservation easements or land acquisition			Restoration				
BUDGET ITEM											
Personnel							20,000	20,000	0	20,000	0
Contracts											
<i>Prescribed burning crews, tree removal and/or seeding services</i>							60,000	60,000	0	60,000	0
Land acquisition	300,000	300,000	0							300,000	0
Land rights acquisition				50,000	50,000	0				50,000	0
Professional Services											
<i>Appraisals, surveys, title work, closing costs, environmental review</i>											
COLUMN TOTAL	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$430,000	\$0

Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 4 - Accomplishments

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- 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
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