

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

PROJECT TITLE: HCP6-2g-Wildlife Areas Management

PROJECT MANAGER: Suzann Willhite

AFFILIATION: MN-DNR, Division of Fish & Wildlife

MAILING ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Road,

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WEBSITE: <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2009, Ch 143, Sec 2, Subd 4(e)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$50,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Through this project DNR-Wildlife provides oversight for infrastructure management and habitat restoration on lands acquired by Habitat Conservation Partners (HCP). Partners acquire priority land and transfer it to the DNR for long term management as Wildlife Management Areas. This funding source ensures DNR will not incur a significant short-term liability for initial site development from these acquired lands. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor is hired as needed to implement development on lands acquired. Infrastructure management may include but is not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, professional services, public access, parking lots and user facilities, and clean up of old buildings or wells. Habitat restoration may include but is not limited to grassland development or improvement, wetland restoration or impoundment development, forest or woody cover development or improvement, brush land management, professional services, and food plot development. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans. DNR cannot start work until the Partners have completed acquisition on each parcel. Once the new acquisitions are transferred to the DNR site development and habitat restoration work can occur.

Specifically in this phase, \$6,128 was expended on habitat and development work at Benderberg WMA, including thirty acres of former cropland that were site prepped, seeded, and mowed. \$43,872 went unspent due to when acquisitions were transferred to DNR, season for habitat work, and field staff availability.

Citizens of the state of Minnesota benefit from this project by having more public hunting and recreation land available in high priority landscapes throughout the state. These new public lands are managed as State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Section of Wildlife for wildlife habitat.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information on HCP project results have been shared and disseminated through all partner organizations. Signs are posted on completed project sites identifying the ENRTF funding source. These signs provide information to the general public on how the lottery funds are spent for natural resource activities.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: August 30, 2011

Final Report

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date:

I. PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI - Wildlife Areas Management (2g), DNR –FAW Section of Wildlife

Project Manager: Suzann Willhite

Affiliation: DNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife

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Location: All Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) work will be completed within the nine Project Area boundaries identified in the attached map (Habitat Conservation Partnership Wildlife Areas Management -2g Map).

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$ 50,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 6,127.79
	Equal Balance:	\$ 43,872.21

Legal Citation: ML 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(e).

Appropriation Language:

(e) Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) – Phase VI

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the sixth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$770,000 is for the Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$2,605,000 is for agreements as follows: \$450,000 with Pheasants Forever; \$50,000 with Minnesota Deer Hunters Association; \$895,000 with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$85,000 with National Wild Turkey Federation; \$365,000 with the Nature Conservancy; \$210,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$350,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$100,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$50,000 with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and \$50,000 with Friends of Detroit Lakes Watershed Management District 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 a 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 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. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. To the maximum extent practical, consistent with contractual easement or fee acquisition obligations, the recipients shall utilize staff resources to identify future projects and shall maximize the implementation of biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Overall Project Outcome and Results

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Wildlife Areas Management

Description: DNR, Section of Wildlife staff will administer and manage habitat restoration and development of infrastructure necessary for public access on lands acquired by partners for State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 50,000
 Amount Spent: \$ 6,127.79
 Balance: \$ 43,872.21

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Initial site development on 200+ acres of partner acquired lands	June 30, 2011	\$43,872.21

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2011.

Final Report Summary: Not all the funding was expended due to several reasons such as acquisition transfer time, season for habitat work, and field staff availability. Acquisition transfer from partner organizations to the DNR often takes a substantial amount of time. There are still WMA partner acquisitions in the transfer process that would qualify for this habitat and initial development funding. A second reason is the limited seasonal time and multiple year phases for some habitat work to be completed, for example, prairie establishment can take 3 to 5 years. And a third reason for not expending all the funds is the limited DNR field staff time available to coordinate or complete the habitat and development work. The \$6,128 expended was for partner organization Pheasants Forever’s acquisition at Benderberg WMA habitat and development work. Thirty acres of former cropland were site prepped, seeded and mowed. Development work consisted of boundary sign posting and parking lot construction. This project was originally approved for \$10,000 of habitat and development work, but the work was not able to be completed before the funding expiration date. It would be helpful if future ENRTF funding for habitat and development work would have three years before expiring to allow more work to be completed over several seasons.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 5,000
Contracts: \$ 15,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 8,000
Acquisition, including easements: \$ 0
Travel: \$ 2,000

Other: \$ 20,000

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 50,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:

Infrastructure facility development and restoration of an estimated 200 acres.

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The mission of the Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and plant communities for all generations. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Partnership), formerly the Habitat Corridors Partnership, was formed in 2000 to provide a framework for statewide land conservation in partnership with the Environmental Trust Fund. The work of the Partnership has three main objectives: 1) **Partnership:** working together to accelerate existing programs and identify new opportunities that build upon our existing investments in habitat. 2) **Focus:** The Phase VI proposal will work in nine project areas encompassing 27,442 mi². All work proposed will occur within the identified project areas. These areas were identified as focus areas where resource conservation priorities and opportunity overlap 3) **Leverage:** the objective of this partnership is to bring more resources to bear on Minnesota's conservation need by identifying non-state contributions to accelerate habitat conservation by maximizing the results from limited funding through the Environmental Trust Fund.

This proposal is directly tied to the land acquisition efforts of the Partners, and ensures the timely restoration and development of newly acquired lands to benefit wildlife and provide public access.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: The Section of Wildlife spends approximately 8 million from Game and Fish and Heritage funds to do wildlife management and habitat improvement projects around the state.

D. Spending History: Past ETF Spending: Phase I - 2004: \$611,043; Phase II - 2005: \$43,350; Phase III - 2006: \$103,278; Phase IV - 2007: \$11,944; Phase V - 2008: \$29,102.

VII. DISSEMINATION: Accomplishment Reports and press releases will be made available at <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>. Final reports will be available on the LCCMR website at: <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/lccmr.htm>

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than December 1 and May 1 of each year. A final work program report

and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 31, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A

Attachment A: Final Budget Detail for 2009 Project				
Updated: August 30, 2011				
Project Title: <i>Wildlife Areas Management (2g), DNR – Section of Wildlife</i>				
Project Manager Name: <i>Suzann Willhite</i>				
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 50,000				
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent (June 30, 2011)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE (August 30, 2011)
	Wildlife Mgmt Area			
BUDGET ITEM				
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	5,000	0	5,000	5,000
Contracts				
Professional/technical - <i>Permits, SHPO reviews, well sealing, boundary surveys, etc.</i>	5,000	0	5,000	5,000
Other contracts - <i>With private and non-profit organizations for land mgmt, site clean-up, site prep, planting, seeding, habitat mgmt, etc</i>	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
Other direct operating costs - <i>Habitat development and restoration.</i>	20,000	0	20,000	20,000
Non-capital Equipment / Tools - <i>Fleet and Infrastructure such as signs, posts, gravel, etc.</i>	8,000	6,128	8,000	1,872
Travel expenses in Minnesota	2,000	0	2,000	2,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$50,000	\$6,128	\$50,000	\$43,872

Habitat Conservation Partnership Wildlife Areas Management

2G

