

M.L. 2010 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2012

PROJECT TITLE: Wetland Restoration in the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District

PROJECT MANAGER: Greg Hoch

AFFILIATION: Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetlands

MAILING ADDRESS: 26624 N Tower Rd

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Detroit Lakes MN 56501

PHONE: 218-443-0476

E-MAIL: greghoch1@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2o

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 45,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project funded the restoration of thirty-three wetlands totaling approximately seventeen acres on two Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in Becker County. These areas are managed by the USFWS's Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District office. The primary objective was to restore small seasonal wetlands on WPAs. These small wetlands are important because they are the first to melt in the spring, providing critical habitat to early arriving migrating birds. Research has also shown that these types of wetlands have some of the highest invertebrate densities, a critical food source for egg-laying hens and fast-growing ducklings. These wetlands also play a role in flood protection in the Red River Valley. Because they are temporary or seasonal wetlands, they are often dry during the late fall. During snow melt the following spring, they are able to capture their full volume of water. Wetland restoration in western Minnesota is becoming increasingly important under several climate change models. First, these models predict increased flooding in the future. Second, the models predict that the climate of central Dakotas, the duck factory, will shift to western Minnesota. Wetland restoration in Minnesota buffers us against current and future flooding as well as the possible future waterfowl and songbird production in the Central Flyway.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

We are currently drafting a press release for local television and newspapers to discuss all of the grant funded projects in this area, including both ENRTF and LSOHC-CPL funded projects. However, due to the business of the pre-Xmas season, we will probably wait until mid-January before contacting these media. We have had informal conversations with newspapers in the area and they are interested in doing a story on the habitat restoration work in this area.

Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2010 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: 12/5/2011

Final Report

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date: 11/28/2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP Phase VI Supplemental - Wetland Restoration in Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (2o)

Project Manager: Greg Hoch
Affiliation: Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District
Mailing Address: 26624 N Tower Rd
City / State / Zip: Detroit Lakes MN 56501
Telephone Number: 218-443-0476 (cell)
E-mail Address: greghoch1@gmail.com
FAX Number: 218-847-4156
Web Site Address:

Location: *Becker County MN*

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$	45,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	44,929
	Equal Balance:	\$	71

Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2o

Appropriation Language:

\$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

This project restored 29 wetlands on Kruger Waterfowl Production Area ranging in size from 0.1 to 4.7 acres, and four wetlands on Seter-Davis WPA ranging in size from 0.1 to 0.3 acres in size. In total, approximately 17 acres were restored. This fall, 2011, the wetlands were excavated by local contractors, any ditches leading to the wetlands were completely filled, and any remaining fill was spread on the surrounding uplands in an effort to mimic the original topography of the site. This summer, volunteers and Friends members hand harvest over sixty species of wildflower seed from nearby WPAs. USFWS staff, working with local contractors, harvested an additional 24,000 pounds of seed, also from native prairies in the area. USFWS staff will seed the bare dirt at these sites in March of 2012.

While these acres seem small, these small, Type I wetlands are the most impacted in western Minnesota's agricultural landscape. They are important for wildlife for two reasons. These small wetlands tend to melt before larger wetlands and lakes in the spring, providing habitat for the earliest arriving wetland dependent species. Second, many studies have shown that these small wetlands have some of the highest densities of invertebrates in the water. These inverts are a critical resource, especially because of their high protein content, for females trying to lay eggs early in the growing season.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Wetland restorations on Kruger and Seter-Davis WPA

Description:

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	Trust Fund Budget:	\$ 45,000
	Amount Spent:	\$ 44,929
	Balance:	\$ 71

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. excavate wetlands	12/2011	\$45,000
2. reseed sites	3/2012	

Final Report Summary: This project continues the wetland work done by the Detroit Lakes USFWS office and NGOs they regularly work with. With next round of ENRTF dollars we think we will be almost caught up on all the small wetland restorations across the five county district on existing WPAs. Staff, Friends members, and contractors continue to experiment with techniques for wetland restorations such as depth and slope of the wetlands. This year we intensively harvested wetland margin seed and look forward to seeing how well these species establish. One major issue with wetlands in general and restored wetlands specifically is that they are immediately overtaken by invasive species, hybrid cattail and reed canary grass, and these species form dense monocultures in the basin. We hope that by using a heavy seeding density of wetland margin seeds, we can minimize or slow down this process. If successful, we will share these techniques with partners such as the DNR and TNC.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$

Contracts: \$ 45,000 (Subsurface Contracting will do all wetland restoration work. USFWS staff will reseed the site after construction activities are done.)

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$

Acquisition, including easements: \$

Travel: \$

Other: \$

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$50,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The project is coordinated by the Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The goal of the project is to provide more habitat for wetland dependent plant and wildlife species, most of which are declining across Minnesota.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: We recently submitted three small NAWCA grants for work in western Minnesota. These project dollars were used as match on one of those grants for additional wetland restoration work in Clay and Becker Counties.

D. Spending History: We received \$40,000 and \$50,000 ENRTF dollars in the previous phases of ENRTF funding for wetland restoration at nearby Waterfowl Production Areas the Wetland Management District. Additionally, MDHA has spent ENRTF funds on Kruger in recent years. This is part of our overall plan to restore habitats within the district to presettlement vegetation conducive to producing high densities of migratory waterfowl and songbirds.

VII. DISSEMINATION: This winter we plan to approach several newspapers and television stations in the area to discuss the habitat restoration work that has been conducted in recent years through both ENRTF and OHF resources.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Figure 1. Map of WPA showing wetlands restored under this grant delineated in yellow.

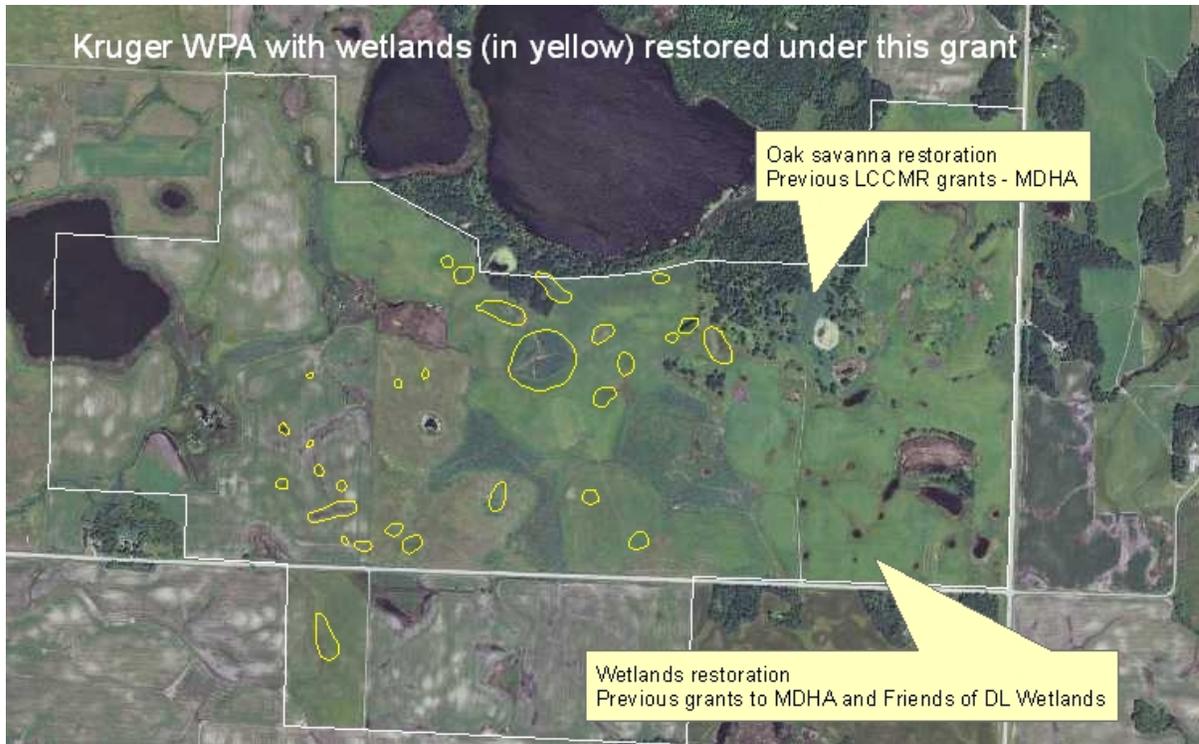


Figure 2. Seter-Davis WPA showing four wetlands restored in this grant. The remaining wetlands at the site will be restored with the next phase of LCCMR funding.



Figure 3. The Process. Contractors use equipment to scrape the silt from the wetland basin and spread this over the surrounding uplands. All bare soil will be reseeded this spring using a diverse mix of local ecotype seed.



Figure 4. The End Product. A flock of mallards flies over a recently restored wetland at a WPA three miles west of Kruger WPA.



Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects					
Project Title: <i>Wetland Restoration in the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District</i>					
Project Manager Name: <i>Greg Hoch</i>					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 45,000					
2010 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance 1 Dec 2011	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Wetland Restoration</i>				
BUDGET ITEM					
Contracts					
Professional/technical - Wetlands will be identified and delineated by FWS staff. Contractors will remove fill/silt from wetlands, place fill into ditch, and grade the wetland and ditch to restore as much of the original topography as possible. Once completed, the areas will be seeded with local ecotype seed by FWS staff	45,000	44,929	71	45,000	71
COLUMN TOTAL	\$45,000	\$44,929	\$71	\$45,000	\$71