

2011 Final Report Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

TITLE: Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) – Phase VII
Shoreland Protection Program – 3A

PROJECT MANAGER: John Brosnan

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust

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FUND: Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3a

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$450,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

In the seventh phase of our Shorelands Protection project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on quality habitat along or containing critical riparian lands. We initiated or continued contact with more than 30 landowners and completed eight conservation easements. Collectively, these easements preserve approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protect nearly 34,172 linear feet of fragile shoreline. Highlights from the eight completed projects include:

- One donated easement over 30 acres in Kandiyohi County that protected over 2,600 feet of natural shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River.
- A complex of five easements surrounding five lakes in Becker County that protected approximately 474 acres and over 3 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Four of the five easements were donated to the Land Trust.
- One donated easement in Otter Tail County that protected 48 acres and over 2,900 feet of shoreline along Blanche Lake, immediately adjacent to Glendalough State Park.
- Another donated easement that protected 145 acres of forest and wetlands in Beltrami County and preserved almost two miles of shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake.

Overall, this phase of the grant program protected 269 acres of forest, 183 acres of wetlands, and over 6 miles of undeveloped shoreline.

All eight projects met the following selection criteria:

1. Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protects riparian areas and buffers water resources
2. Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands
3. Opportunity: cost-benefit ratio: landowners willingness and readiness to participate now
4. Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

All but one of the eight easements completed under this grant were entirely donated. The value is known for only two of the donated easements, which together total \$204,000 in appraised donated value under this grant. The Land Trust purchased one of the Fischer Lakes easements for the appraised value of \$170,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete the eight projects completed under this phase of the grant was just under \$600 per acre.

Cumulatively, across all phases of the HCP program, the Land Trust has completed 89 conservation easements, protecting 8,245 acres of critical habitat and more than 258,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of approximately \$320 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources along Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land along our increasingly threatened shorelines. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase of the grant indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.



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

Date of Status Update: 8/1/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** N

Project Title: HCP VII - Shoreland Protection Program (3a)

Project Manager: John Brosnan
Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust
Address: 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240
City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55114
Telephone Number: (651) 647-9590
Email Address: jbrotsnan@mnland.org
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Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	450,000
	Amount Spent \$:	419,115
	Balance \$:	30,845

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3a

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.

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

In the seventh phase of our Shorelands Protection project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on quality habitat along or containing critical riparian lands. We initiated or continued contact with more than 30 landowners and completed eight conservation easements. Collectively, these easements preserve approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protect nearly 34,172 linear feet of fragile shoreline. Highlights from the eight completed projects include:

- One donated easement over 30 acres in Kandiyohi County that protected over 2,600 feet of natural shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River.
- A complex of five easements surrounding five lakes in Becker County that protected approximately 474 acres and over 3 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Four of the five easements were donated to the Land Trust.
- One donated easement in Otter Tail County that protected 48 acres and over 2,900 feet of shoreline along Blanche Lake, immediately adjacent to Glendalough State Park.
- Another donated easement that protected 145 acres of forest and wetlands in Beltrami County and preserved almost two miles of shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake.

Overall, this phase of the grant program protected 269 acres of forest, 183 acres of wetlands, and over 6 miles of undeveloped shoreline.

All eight projects met the following selection criteria:

1. Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protects riparian areas and buffers water resources
2. Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands
3. Opportunity: cost-benefit ratio: landowners willingness and readiness to participate now
4. Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

All but one of the eight easements completed under this grant were entirely donated. The value is known for only two of the donated easements, which together total \$204,000 in appraised donated value under this grant. The Land Trust purchased one of the Fischer Lakes easements for the appraised value of \$170,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete the eight projects completed under this phase of the grant was just under \$600 per acre.

Cumulatively, across all phases of the HCP program, the Land Trust has completed 89 conservation easements, protecting 8,245 acres of critical habitat and more than 258,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of approximately \$320 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources along Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land along our increasingly threatened shorelines. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase

of the grant indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of May 1, 2014:

The Land Trust continues to work on two final projects along Black Lake that we anticipate will close under this grant. These two donated projects will protect approximately 536 acres and 8,100 feet of shoreline along Black Lake and 7,100 feet of shoreline along Three Island Lake.

Project Status as of November 1, 2013:

In October 2013, we acquired conservation easements on five Fischer Lakes properties which total 473 acres and 28,233 feet of shoreline and are described in greater detail below. To date, this grant has delivered 7 conservation easements on 552 acres and 33,824 feet of shoreline.

Before the grant ends, we anticipate closing on two Black Lake properties which could bring an additional 450+ acres to the total and an additional 16,000+ feet of shoreline.

Project Status as of May 1, 2013:

The Minnesota Land Trust completed its second project of this HCP grant on December 18, 2012. The Blanche Lake project in Otter Tail County is described in more detail below. The Land Trust continues to work on several additional projects, with particular emphasis on two sites along Black Lake in Beltrami County and five sites in the Fischer Lakes region of Becker County that include outstanding shoreland habitat and represent more than 900 acres in total.

Amendment Request (7/16/13):

We are requesting to change the Project Manager from Kris Larson to John Curry. Everything else remains the same.

Amendment Approved: 7/19/13

Amendment Request (04/09/13):

The Minnesota Land Trust would like to add 5 projects to our potential project list. These projects adjoin the Three Lakes project on the approved project list and together create a large complex of contiguous land along five lakes, locally referred to as the Fischer Lakes. The five projects are described in further detail on the attached Project Summaries document. In order to provide this complex of projects with a regionally relevant site name, we are also requesting to change the name of the Three Lakes project to Fischer Lakes.

With the addition of these five projects, the Land Trust intends to complete 5-7 additional projects to complete the 2011 HCP grant. Seven of these projects would involve donated easements, and one project would involve a purchase which will require use of 2011 funds. To complete these final projects, we are also requesting the following budget amendment:

1. Move \$36,500 from "Personnel" to "Easement Acquisition". As noted above, this adjustment is needed because we are completing one more critical project that will require additional acquisition funds.

2. Move \$3,500 from "Personnel" to "Travel Expenses." The projects we will be completed under this 2011 grant require more travel funds than we had originally anticipated.

This proposed budget change is shown on Attachment A and in Section VI. Project Budget Summary. Amendment Approved: April 15, 2013.

Project Status as of November 1, 2012:

The Land Trust continues to work on several projects, with particular emphasis on five that we believe could potentially close under this grant. Additionally, as indicated by the strikeout and underline above and on the Work Plan attachments, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change the project manager due to a staff transition. Finally, the reporting schedule under the Reporting Requirements section was amended to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014. Amendment approved November 13, 2012.

Project Status as of August 23, 2012:

The Minnesota Land Trust would like to add two projects to our potential project list. Both projects are described in further detail on the attached Project Summaries document. Amendment approved September 6, 2012.

Project Status as of May 1, 2012:

The Minnesota Land Trust completed its first project of this HCP grant on December 29, 2011. The Crow River project in Kandiyohi County is described in more detail below. The Land Trust continues to work with additional landowners and anticipates the closing of its second project under this grant phase (Black Lake) by the end of June. Additionally, we have identified five new potential projects. These projects are shown on the attached revised potential acquisition list.

Project Status as of November 1, 2011:

The Land Trust began work on this phase of the grant in August 2011. We continue to work on a number of projects on the project list. We anticipate closing the Crow River project by the end of 2011. Also we have identified one additional potential project and therefore have updated the attached acquisition list and project summary document. We also removed one project from the list that we determined not to be a good fit for this grant.

Project Status as of August 2011 and Request to Work on Grants Concurrently

In June 2011, the Land Trust completed one (Lake Superior) of the two projects described and approved in our 2010 Work Program that will complete the 2010 HCP grant. The Land Trust anticipates that the second project (Little Pine River) will close within the next month, and completion of this project will use remaining 2010 funds. At the same time, we have a number of projects on our 2011 Potential Project list that are ready to move forward. Therefore, we are requesting approval to be able to work on both the 2010 and 2011 grants concurrently. Request approved on August 19, 2011.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements

Description:

The Land Trust will protect critical riparian habitat within the mapped project areas by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-6 permanent conservation easements on 400-600 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and

quality of natural resources on the site. All potential easement projects are evaluated for habitat value (quality and quantity of existing habitat on site), context (proximity and relationship to other protected lands), opportunity/threat (which landowners will participate now), and other benefits (meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.). Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 450,000
Amount Spent: \$ 419,155
Balance: \$ 30,845

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 400-600 acres by completing 4-6 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2014	\$ 450,000

Final Report Summary as of June 30, 2014:

The Land Trust completed one additional easement under this grant program. The Black Lake project in Beltrami County closed in June 2014. This project protected 145 acres and approximately 10,197 feet of shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake. This project was a donated conservation easement. A long-term stewardship and monitoring plan was prepared for this project. This project is summarized in greater detail, below. One other landowner the Land Trust had been working with on Black Lake chose not to complete the conservation easement.

PROJECT: Black Lake, Beltrami County

- **Description:** 145-acre property in Beltrami County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and significant undeveloped shoreline that collectively support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property includes 10,197 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake.
- The conservation easement protects the shoreline and forest and limits development of the tract and other uses that could have detrimental impacts on water quality, the integrity of the forest community and the scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The landowner donated this conservation easement. Stewardship funding needs for perpetual monitoring and enforcement were calculated using the Land Trust’s Project Cost Analysis and those funds have been requested.

In summary, this grant allowed the Land Trust to complete eight conservation easements, protecting approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protecting nearly 34,172 linear feet (over 6 miles) of fragile shoreline. Seven of the eight easements completed were donated easements. Because most of the easements were donated, there was a significant amount of savings in the budget with respect to easement acquisition costs.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2014:

The Land Trust is working on two final projects on our potential project list which we anticipate will close under this grant. These two properties along Black Lake in Beltrami County total 536 acres and contain 8,100 feet of shoreline along Black Lake and 7,100 feet of shoreline along Three Island Lake. Both of these projects will be donated conservation easements. The Land Trust hopes to reach agreement on terms with the landowners in the coming weeks, with closing to occur in May or June.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2013:

The Land Trust completed five projects in October 2013. These projects, collectively known as Fischer Lakes, were from 5 landowners all from the same extended family. 4 of the properties were donated; the fifth was acquired for the purchase price of \$170,000. The properties totaled 473 acres and 28,233 feet of shoreline and are described in greater detail below. To date, this grant has delivered 7 conservation easements on 552 acres and 33,824 feet of shoreline.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** 199-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and a pond that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property is incredibly unique in that it contains over 15,968 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer, Rice, Bass and Murphy Lake.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was purchased for \$170,000 with funding from the Habitat Corridors Partnership – Phase VII grant. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** This 58- acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,835 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Albertson lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits division, mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** This 37-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and

aquatic species. The property contains over 1,126 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Albertson Lake and is part of a larger land protection complex.

- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits division, mining, agricultural and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Ottertail County

- **Description:** This 71-acre property in Ottertail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 3,175 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Gray Lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat and water quality. Specifically, the easement prohibits division, new development, mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes, Becker County

- **Description:** This 108-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,006 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer Lake, Albertson Lake and a pond, and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- The easement contains a general prohibition against activities that would compromise the habitat, water quality and scenic values of the property. Specifically, the easement prohibits mining and industrial uses of the land and limits commercial, agricultural and residential uses of the protected property. In addition the easement ensures the scenic quality of the property for the benefit of the general public.
- The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. Although stewardship costs have not yet been invoiced, the typical cost assumptions will be reduced because the properties are largely contiguous and currently owned by a single extended family.

Work continues on two Black Lake projects that have a high likelihood of closing before the grant program ends in June of 2014.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2013:

The Land Trust completed its second project under this grant phase in December, 2012. This conservation easement was donated by the landowners and protects 48 acres of land in Otter Tail County. The completed project is described below.

Project: Blanche Lake, Otter Tail County

Description: This 48-acre property in Otter Tail County contains a mix of oak forest and woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands. The property also includes approximately 2,217 feet of shoreline along Lake Blanche and 723 feet of shoreline along an unnamed river flowing out of Annie Battle Lake and into Blanche Lake. The property enhances the habitat and open space of a larger complex of protected land, connecting with Glendalough State Park to the south and extending to three other properties protected by the Land Trust using prior ENRTF funding (Lake Emma Tracts).

The easement prohibits division of the property, industrial use and agricultural use. Residential use is limited.

The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. \$15,000 of 2011 HCP ENRTF funds will be dedicated for stewardship on this project.

The Land Trust continues to work with other landowners to complete this phase of the HCP grant. It is anticipated that at least one of the Black Lake projects and one of the Fischer Lakes projects will be completed by the end of June.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2012:

The Land Trust is working on several of the projects on our potential project list, with particular emphasis on five projects we believe may close as part of this grant. Two of these projects are potential donated easements in Beltrami County. One of these projects is just getting underway, while the other one is moving more slowly than anticipated due to title issues that must be resolved. The other three projects would involve bargain purchases of conservation easements. We hope to reach agreement on terms with all of these landowners by the end of the year with closing to occur early in 2013.

Activity Status as of May 1, 2012:

The Land Trust completed its first project under this grant phase on December 29, 2012. This conservation easement was donated by the landowners and protects 30 acres of land in Kandiyohi County. The completed project is described below.

Project: Crow River, Kandiyohi County

Description: This 30-acre property consists of woodland, grassland, and wetlands with approximately 2,651 feet of shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River. The mix of grassland, woodland, wetland and riparian areas on the property can provide habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need, including the short-eared owl, Blanding's turtle, and a variety of migratory songbirds. Additionally, the property provides scenic views of open, rolling landscape in an area experiencing rural residential development.

The easement prohibits division of the property, industrial use, and agricultural use. Residential use is limited.

The conservation easement was donated by the landowners. \$15,000 of 2011 HCP ENRTF funds will be dedicated for stewardship on this project.

The Land Trust continues to work with other landowners to complete this phase of the HCP grant. It is anticipated that the Black Lake project will be completed by the end of June which will protect 470 acres and over a mile of shoreline in Beltrami County.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2011:

The Land Trust expects to complete the 30-acre Crow River project (first project under this grant) by the end of the year. Additionally, we will complete the 80-acre Glacial Ridge project by the end of the year, however, we will not be using ENRTF funding. After visiting the property, we determined that it did not contain sufficient shoreline to fit with our Shoreland Protection Program. Therefore, this project has been removed from the attached acquisition list and project summary document. We also continue to work on a number of the other projects on the acquisition list and continue to conduct outreach to other potential landowners. From that outreach work, we have identified one additional project that we would like to add to our list. The Warren Lake project is described in more detail on the acquisition list and the project summary document.

Final Report Summary:

In summary, this grant allowed the Land Trust to complete eight conservation easements, protecting approximately 700 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 400 to 600 acres—and protecting nearly 34,172 linear feet (over 6 miles) of fragile shoreline. The Land Trust realized significant cost savings on the grant given that seven of the eight easements completed were donated easements. Because most of the easements were donated, there was a significant amount of savings in the budget specifically in regards to easement acquisition costs.

V. DISSEMINATION:**Description:**

The Minnesota Land Trust holds more conservation easements than any other private conservation organization in the State, making it one of the most experienced organizations working with this unique conservation tool. As we learn from our experiences in protecting land with conservation easements, we will continue to share our knowledge and techniques with others working in this area. Results will be disseminated by the Minnesota Land Trust in our publications and on our web page (www.mnland.org). We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which the lands are located. We will also participate when possible in larger dissemination and publicity efforts of the Habitat Corridors Partnership.

Final Status Report as of June 30, 2014:

Land Trust staff developed and shared a press release for the final project completed under this grant, the Black Lake project. News of that project completion was also shared on our social media. This project will be included in the Land Trust's 2015 Mid Year Review publication, which will be published in early fall of 2014.

Status as of May 1, 2104:

The completed Fischer Lakes projects were highlighted on the Land Trust's website and through social media following closing in October of 2013. The projects were also described in the Land Trust's 2014 Mid Year Review publication released in April of 2014. Following the Land Trust's press release, the Fischer Lakes properties were publicized in an article in the Frazee-Vergas Forum on November 13, 2013.

Status as of November 1, 2013:

The Land Trust is beginning the process of coordinating media and outreach surrounding the Fischer Lakes projects. We anticipate significant local and regional media. We will pursue print and radio media and utilize our own list of members, supporters, interested parties and social media constituents.

Status as of May 1, 2013:

The Land Trust featured the Blanche Lake project in press, individual presentations and in its 2013 Mid Year Review publication released in late April, 2013. Following the Land Trust's press release, the Blanche Lake property was highlighted in an article in the Fergus Falls Journal on January 31, 2013.

Status as of November 1, 2012:

The completed Crow River project was described in the Land Trust's 2012 Mid Year Review publication released in May 2012.

Status as of May 1, 2012:

No activity to date. The Land Trust has not yet publicized the project completed in December. We anticipate publicity in the future.

Status as of November 1, 2011:

No activity to date. The Land Trust plans to publicize the completion of projects once they are closed.

Final Report Summary:

In summary, all of the projects closed under this grant received publication among a wide mix of media, including the Land Trust's website, the Land Trust's social media accounts, via press releases and local newspapers, and in the Land Trust's publications including the Mid Year Review and the Annual Report.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**A. ENRTF Budget:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount Budgeted (Revised as of May 2014)	\$ Amount Spent	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 120,000	\$ 113,202	Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1 FTE for 3 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.*
Easement Acquisition:	\$ 231,500	\$ 208,001	Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect 400-600 acres of land.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,953	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$6,000 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.55 per mile and \$2,500 for lodging/meals.
Conservation Easement Monitoring and Enforcement Fund:	\$ 90,000	\$90,000	Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring and enforcing 4-6 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 450,000	\$ 419,155	

*Per discussion with LCCMR staff, contract staff is included here to allow flexibility to supplement existing MLT staff capacity to complete anticipate outcomes.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1 for two years

B. Other Funds:

Although we don't anticipate any cash funds at this time, we do anticipate providing leverage through value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project.

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$ 204,000	Appraised value of two donated easements
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Habitat Conservation Partnership partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project is part of the Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Land Trust which includes, among other things, the preservation of lakeshores, rivers and streams for their importance as habitat, for their relationship to water quality, and for the scenic values that have long been associated with Minnesota's beauty. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. All of the HCP project areas selected for this phase of the grant overlap with Land Trust critical landscapes.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

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
ENRTF – HCP	\$230,000	\$300,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$102,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See Acquisition List Attachment

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than November 1, 2011, May 1, 2012, November 1, 2012, May 1, 2013, November 1, 2013, and May 1, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 15, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects						
Project Title: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program						
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3a						
Project Manager: John Brosnan						
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$450,000						
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014						
Date of Update: August 1, 2014						
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget approved April 15, 2013	Revised Activity 1 Budget as of May 2014	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements</i>					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.</i>	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$113,202	\$6,798	\$120,000	\$6,798
<i>MLT Conservation Staff</i>						
<i>Contract Land Protection Staff</i>						
<i>MLT Legal Staff</i>						
<i>MLT Support Staff</i>						
Easement Acquisition <i>Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.)</i>	\$251,500	\$231,500	\$208,001	\$23,499	\$231,500	\$23,499
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota</i>	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$7,953	\$547	\$8,500	\$547
Easement Monitoring & Enforcement Fund <i>Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed.</i>	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$419,155	\$30,845	\$450,000	\$30,845

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program

Project Manager Name: John Brosnan

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$450,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	Big Too Much Lake	441235	5277999	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Big Too Much Lake	conservation easement acquisition	55	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
2	Eagle Lake	464861	5273928	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Eagle Lake	conservation easement acquisition	34	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
3	Horseshoe Lake	461655	5272370	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Horseshoe Lake	conservation easement acquisition	26	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
4	Little Too Much Lake	441649	5275254	Itasca	forest, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Little Too Much Lake	conservation easement acquisition	57	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Negotiations underway
5	Crow River	345859	5015065	Kandiyohi	woodland, wetland, grassland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River	conservation easement acquisition	30	2,651	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
6	Glacial Ridge	352498	5018632	Kandiyohi	forest, wetlands	part of a larger conservation complex	conservation easement acquisition	100	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	initial contact completed
8	Goose Lake	317066	5034284	Pope	forest, wetlands, agricultural, shoreline	wooded shoreline along Goose Lake	conservation easement acquisition	199	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. nitial contact completed
9	Horsehead Lake	321469	5114902	Otter Tail	woodland, grassland, wetlands, ponds	undeveloped shoreline on Horsehead Lake	conservation easement acquisition	43	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
10	Fischer Lakes	296106	5177095	Becker	wetlands, water, forest, grassland, ag land,	undeveloped shoreline on three lakes	conservation easement acquisition	198	10,000	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Likely purchase .
11	Minnesota River	279724	4979940	Lac Qui Parle	forest, wetlands, savanna	undeveloped shoreline along Minnesota River and stream	conservation easement acquisition	157	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway.
12	Lake Washington	433126	4899725	Le Sueur	grassland, forest, wetland, open water, woodlands, agricultural	undeveloped shoreline along intermittent stream that meanders into Lake Washington to the west	conservation easement acquisition	132	6,440	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner - partnership	Donation. Negotiations on hold.
13	Lake Jefferson	432734	4903032	Le Sueur	woodland, wetland, grassland, agricultural, shoreline	wooded shoreline along Lake Jefferson	conservation easement acquisition	73	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations on hold.
14	Le Sueur River	422449	4881853	Blue Earth	grassland, forest, water, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Le Sueur River and an intermittent stream	conservation easement acquisition	55	1,500 +	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
15	Black Lake	363893	5277005	Beltrami	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, shoreline	wooded shoreline along Black Lake	conservation easement acquisition	145	7,160	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
16	Warren Lake	445258	5105258	Mille Lacs	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Warren Lake and Shakopee Lake, contains five native plant communities mapped by MCBS	conservation easement acquisition	152	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust		Purchase. Initial contact completed

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
17	Zumbro Bottoms	569622	4909748	Wabasha	forest, grassland, wetland, agriculture, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along the Zumbro River, contains three native plant communities mapped by MCBS	conservation easement acquisition	250	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
18	Black Lake	363753	5276104	Beltrami	forest, woodland, grassland, wetland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Black Lake and Three Island Lake	conservation easement acquisition	171	5,000 +	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
19	Balsam Lake	468792	5264534	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Balsam Lake	conservation easement acquisition	17	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
20	Eagle Lake	464446	5273851	Itasca	forest, wetlands, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Eagle Lake	conservation easement acquisition	34	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation, Initial contact completed
21	Jones Lake	294004	5183327	Becker	forest, woodland, grassland, wetlands, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Jones Lake and Otter Tail River	conservation easement acquisition	80	TBD	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
22	Cedar Lake	466341	4905054	Rice	forest, shoreline	undeveloped island on Cedar Lake containing three native plant communities mapped by MCBS	conservation easement acquisition	11	2,800 +	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Initial contact completed
23	Blanche Lake	293638	5139612	Otter Tail	forest, woodland, wetland, grassland, agricultural, shoreline	adjacent to Glendalough State Park and contains undeveloped shoreline along Blanche Lake	conservation easement acquisition	151	2,100+	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Purchase. Initial contact completed
24	Cannon River	479429	4908012	Rice	forest, woodland, wetland, grassland, shoreline	part of a larger conservation complex along this part of the Cannon River	conservation easement acquisition	68	2,000+	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Purchase. Initial contact completed
25	Fischer Lakes	295002	5177179	Becker	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Albertson Lakes, part of a complex	conservation easement acquisition	58	5,313	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
26	Fischer Lakes	294740	5177646	Becker	forest, wetland, grassland, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Albertson Lake, a shallow lake key habitat for species in greatest conservation need	conservation easement acquisition	37	1,116	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
27	Fischer Lakes	295870	5177558	Becker	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	encompasses the entire shoreline along Bass Lake	conservation easement acquisition	53	2,617	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
28	Fischer Lakes	295717	5176581	Otter Tail	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Gray Lakes	conservation easement acquisition	88	4,045	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway
29	Fischer Lakes	295440	5177646	Becker	forest, wetland, agricultural, shoreline	undeveloped shoreline along Albertson and Fischer Lakes	conservation easement acquisition	108	4,006	Minnesota Land Trust	Private landowner	Donation. Negotiations underway

NOTES: The above list includes projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed. Projects not completed under the 2011 phase may be moved to future phases.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND M.L. 2011 Potential Project Summaries

Project Title: HCP VII-3a – Shoreland Protection Program

Project Manager Name: John Brosnan

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$450,000

*highlighted text signifies a completed project.

PROJECT: Big Too Much Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 55-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that support a large array of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. The property also contains extensive shoreline along Big Too Much Lake and lies adjacent to Chippewa National Forest to the north.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Eagle Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 34-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The property also contains shoreline along Eagle Lake and connects two pieces of George Washington State Forest, creating a larger corridor of protected forest.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Horseshoe Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 26-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that support a large array of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. The property also contains shoreline along Horseshoe Lake and connects to George Washington State Forest at the southwest corner of the property.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Little Too Much Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 57-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed plant communities of forest and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The property also contains shoreline along Little Too Much Lake and lies adjacent to Chippewa National Forest to the north and east.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** We anticipate this project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Crow River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 30-acre property in Kandiyohi County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of wetlands, woodlands and grasslands that support a large variety of fish, wildlife and plants, including the short-eared owl, Blanding's turtle, and a variety of migratory songbirds. Additionally, the wetlands and undeveloped shoreline along the Middle Fork of the Crow River help maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the river and nearby Nest Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The easement will prohibit division of the property, prohibit agricultural use, and limit residential use to the one existing home.

PROJECT: Glacial Ridge

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 100-acre property in Kandiyohi County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species, including migratory birds. The property also contains an extensive amount of basswood – bur oak forest, a native plant community identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. Additionally, the property lies in an area of prior protection work by the Land Trust, and lies adjacent to an existing conservation easement.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Goose Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 199-acre property in Pope County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest and wetlands that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and aquatic species. The property also contains undeveloped, wooded shoreline along Goose Lake, a natural environment lake.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Horsehead Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 43-acre property in Otter Tail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of woodland, grassland, wetlands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species, including migratory birds. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along Horsehead Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** 199-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and a pond that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property is incredibly unique in that it contains over 15,968 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer Lake and Murphy Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Minnesota River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 157-acre property in Lac Qui Parle County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and a pond that provide habitat for a variety of species. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along the Minnesota River and one of its tributaries. The southern dry hill prairie on the property has been identified as a significant native plant community by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Lake Washington

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 132-acre property in Le Sueur County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodlands, wetlands,

grasslands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along a stream that eventually flows into Lake Washington.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Lake Jefferson

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 73-acre property in Le Sueur County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and ponds that support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property also contains undeveloped wooded shoreline along Lake Jefferson and lies adjacent to Bur Oak Wildlife Management Area to the west.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: LeSueur River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 55-acre property in Blue Earth County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of grassland and forest that support a variety of wildlife. The sugar maple – basswood forest on the property has been identified as a significant native plant community by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along the Le Sueur River and one of its tributaries.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Black Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 145-acre property in Beltrami County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodland, wetland and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains over 7,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Black Lake and lies adjacent to Three Island Lake County Park to the east.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Zumbro Bottoms

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 250-acre property in Wabasha County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains an extensive amount of undeveloped shoreline along Zumbro River and its tributaries. The southern dry-mesic oak forest, silver maple - green ash – cottonwood terrace forest, and the elm – ash – basswood forest have all been identified as significant native plant communities by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The property also lies adjacent to Richard J. Dorer hardwood Forest to the south.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Warren Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 152-acre property in Mille Lacs County is adjacent to Mille Lacs Kathio State Park and contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodland, wetland and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along both Warren Lake and Shakopee Lake. The sedge meadow, alder swamp, willow-dogwood shrub swamp, northern conifer swamp and red oak-basswood forest on the property have all been identified as significant native plant communities by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private non-profit organization (church).
- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Balsam Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 17-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undeveloped habitats of forest and wetlands that support a variety of wildlife. The property also contains undeveloped shoreline along Balsam Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Eagle Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 34-acre property in Itasca County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of hardwood and conifer forests, and wetlands that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains over 1,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Eagle Lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Jones Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 80-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of upland forest, shallow marsh, bogs, and shrub swamp. The property also contains over 1,000 feet of shoreline along Jones Lake and more than 2,000 feet of shoreline along both sides of Otter Tail River. Additionally, the property contains significant native plant communities of aspen-birch-fir forest and sedge meadow as identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Cedar Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 11-acre island property in Rice County is located on Cedar Lake and contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of hardwood forest and cobble beach shoreline. The sugar maple forest, silver maple-green ash-cottonwood terrace forest and gravel/cobble beach on the property have all been identified as significant native plant communities by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. Additionally, the Minnesota County Biological Survey has also identified the property as part of a site of high biodiversity significance.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Blanche Lake

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 151-acre property in Otter Tail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodland, wetland and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains over 2,100 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Blanche Lake and lies adjacent to Glendalough State Park to the south.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.

- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Cannon River

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 68-acre property in Rice County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, woodlands, wetlands and grassland that support a large variety of wildlife. The property also contains more than 2,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along the Cannon River. The property also lies across the river from The Nature Conservancy's Trout Lily Preserve and is located a little over half a mile upstream from Cannon River Trout Lily SNA.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project likely will be a purchased conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 58- acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,835 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Albertson lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 37-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 1,126 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Albertson Lake and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 52-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and grasslands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 2,617 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Bass Lake and is part of a larger land protection complex.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

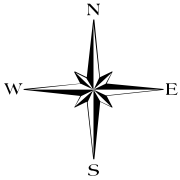
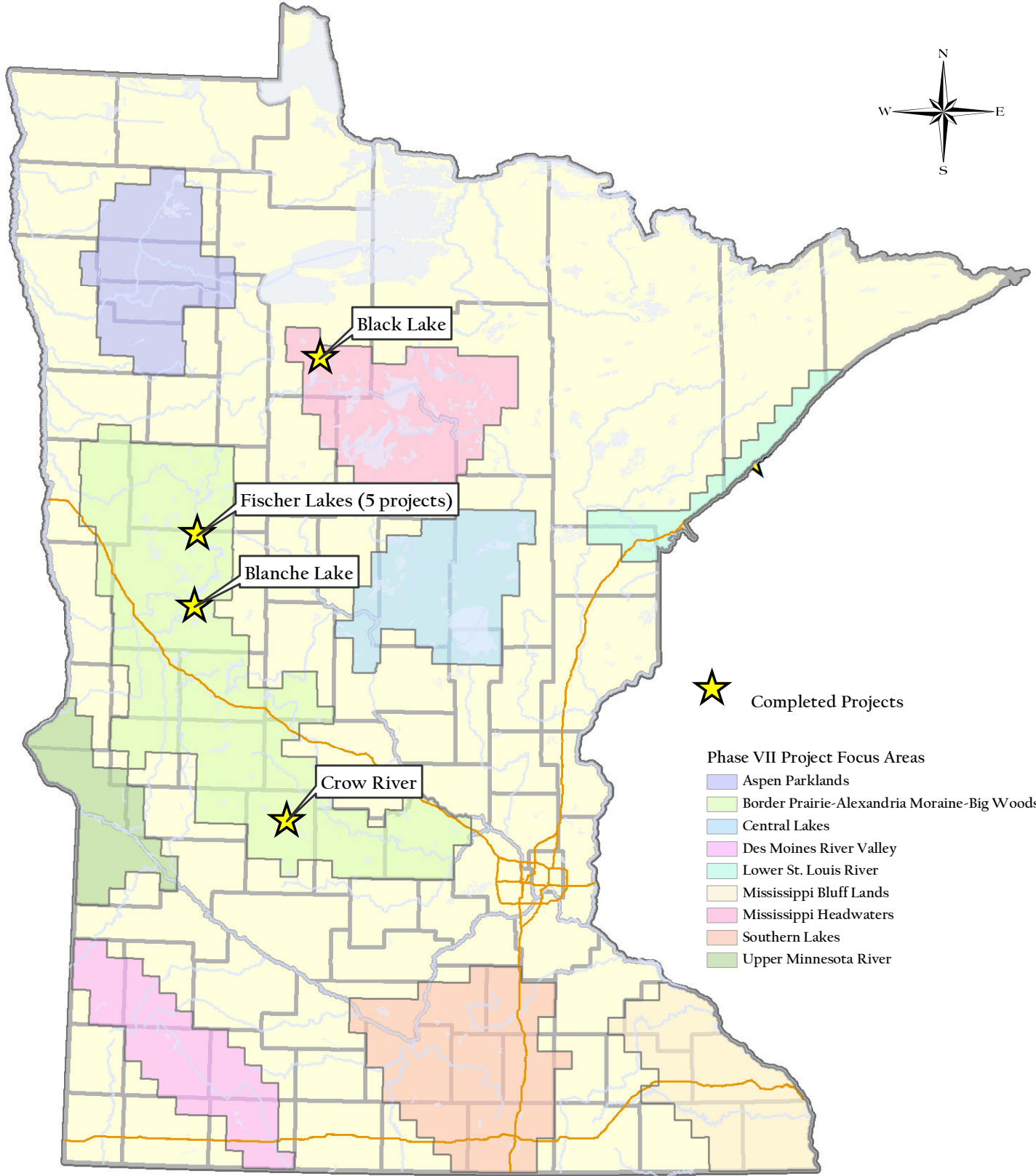
- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 71-acre property in Ottertail County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 3,175 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer and Gray Lakes and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

PROJECT: Fischer Lakes

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 108-acre property in Becker County contains relatively natural and undisturbed habitats of forest, wetlands and haylands support a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. The property contains over 4,006 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Fischer Lake, and a pond, and is part of a larger land protection complex.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** This project will be a donated conservation easement. The terms of this easement are still being negotiated.

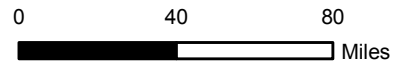
Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST COMPLETED PROJECTS



Completed Projects

- Phase VII Project Focus Areas**
- Aspen Parklands
 - Border Prairie-Alexandria Moraine-Big Woods
 - Central Lakes
 - Des Moines River Valley
 - Lower St. Louis River
 - Mississippi Bluff Lands
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Glendalough complex to grow by 48 acres

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“It’s the next best thing to having that area be park land.”

That’s the reaction of Glendalough State Park Manager Jeff Wiersma when asked for his assessment of a new conservation easement located adjacent to the park. Forty-eight acres of land located adjacent to Glendalough State Park in Otter Tail County is protected from development forever, through the efforts of the Minnesota Land Trust and funds from the Minnesota state lottery.

The Walvatne family has farmed the property for over 65 years, first raising cattle and then focusing on field crops. Reuben Walvatne has lived on the property his entire life, and worked the farm with his brother Joseph. He’s happy about being able to protect his family property with a conservation easement, saying with a smile, “It gives the trees some credit for being there.” Through the terms of the easement, the property will remain undeveloped into perpetuity, and will remain in private ownership.

This conservation easement is particularly significant because it extends the natural characteristics of Glendalough State Park’s northern boundary, on a lake that has already experienced considerable shoreline development. This new easement joins three that are already in place on the park’s eastern boundary along Lake Emma. All told, the four easements add well over two miles of undeveloped shoreline to the park’s nine miles of shoreline. The 900+ acres of undeveloped land protected by the area conservation easements effectively increases the wildlife habitat of the park by a third.

The undeveloped and natural character of the Walvatne property provides significant habitat for a variety of fish, wildlife and plants, including the short-eared owl, the American badger, the common snapping turtle, and a variety of migratory waterfowl and songbirds. In addition, protecting the shoreline helps to maintain water quality and the ecological integrity of the lake.

According to , “Blanche Lake is already very developed; this provides relief from that development and will be appreciated by other lakeshore owners,” Wiersma said. “Developers like to put houses and condos next to state parks because they get this great view of undeveloped land, but the park visitors don’t end up with such a good view.

“We place a high priority on projects that are contiguous to other conservation easements, state parks or other undeveloped land,” says Kris Larson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Land Trust adding, “This is not only a significant legacy for the landowners; it is also an example of the public and natural benefits provided to Minnesota thanks to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the wisdom of the Legislature.”

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The Trust Fund is permanently funded by Minnesota State Lottery proceeds to ensure future benefits for Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.

The Minnesota Land Trust is a membership-based non-profit organization. Its mission is to permanently protect Minnesota’s natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. The organization is funded by individual members and through grants from a variety of private and public sources and operates statewide through regional offices in Duluth, Ely and St. Paul. The organization has completed 444 conservation projects permanently protecting more than 40,900 acres of natural and scenic land and over 876,000 feet of fragile shoreline statewide.

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or other qualified agency that permanently limits certain uses of land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners continue to own and enjoy the land and pay property taxes. Once created, the conservation easement is binding on all future owners of the property. More information can be found online at www.mnland.org.



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Frazee landowners sign conservation easement to keep lakes, land pristine

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