



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

Date of Status Update:**Date of Next Status Update:** 1/1/2012**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 6/23/2011**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014**Is this an amendment request?** _____

Project Title: Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition**Project Manager:** Brad Cobb**Affiliation:** Redwood Area Communities Foundation**Address:** 200 S Mill St**City:** Redwood Falls **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 56283**Telephone Number:** (320) 493-4695**Email Address:** 1231tlc@charter.net**Web Address:** <http://www.tatankabluffs.com>

Location:**Counties Impacted:** Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Nicollet, Redwood, Renville**Ecological Section Impacted:** North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:**ENRTF Appropriation \$:** 2,000,000**Amount Spent \$:** 0**Balance \$:** 2,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04g**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Redwood Area Communities Foundation to acquire lands with high-quality native plant communities and rare features to be established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Up to \$54,000 may be retained by the Department of Natural Resources at the request of the Redwood Area Communities Foundation for transaction costs, associated professional services, and restoration needs. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota River Green Corridor Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project is a continuation of our FY08 Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) activities with a renewed emphasis on protecting the most ecologically sensitive areas or regions of the mid-section of the Minnesota River Valley through fee title acquisitions that could become degraded, fragmented, or even destroyed. The primary goal of this project is to protect through fee title acquisition approximately 420 acres of the most critically sensitive habitat lands and transfer ownership to the MN DNR Scientific & Natural Area (SNA) Program. These properties would be acquired from willing/supportive sellers within targeted areas of the MN River Valley. In cooperation with the MN DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources and the use of the ENRTF funded Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Conservation plan we have identified four (4) key areas/regions with remnant native prairie, rare rock outcrop communities, and/or other critical or sensitive natural habitats that have been recommended by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as high priorities for protection in which we will concentrate our efforts.

Each site has an MCBS-prepared Ecological Evaluation (EE) report which serves as a baseline assessment report. These assessment reports are then reviewed and recommended by the DNR SNA Commissioner's Advisory Committee (CAC – a 15 member panel appointed by the Commissioner). We will evaluate and secure agreements with willing/supportive landowners who own properties within these four (4) target areas and then prioritize them for protection through fee title agreements. In all cases properties will be acquired in fee then transferred to the MN DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources for designation and management as Scientific and Natural Areas. The DNR - SNA program is willing to identify opportunities to interpret SNA's and encourage "light on the land" use in conjunction with Natural or Ecological Interpretive Trails proposed in the Minnesota River Valley.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 15, 2012:

Project Status as of July 15, 2012:

Project Status as of January 15, 2013:

Project Status as of July 15, 2013:

Project Status as of January 15, 2014:

Project Status as of June 30, 2014:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Evaluate & Complete Property Considerations

Description:

Within the four (4) target areas the contracted Program Manager through the Redwood Area Communities Foundation (RACF) will perform this activity by coordinating and reviewing various conservation plans in cooperation and coordination with DNR Ecological and Water Resource staff and working from the DNR priority acquisition list.

Contracted Program Manager will then begin working with landowners who own land of the most ecological importance for protection as proposed by MCBS/Green Corridor Conservation Plan and then contact those landowners (through letters, telephone/email corresponds, direct contacts or visits) to discuss their willingness to participate in this project. If during these discussions it is learned that a landowner would prefer to participate in the DNR Prairie Bank Easement Program – Program Manager will submit that information to the DNR for their follow up. Program Manager has demonstrated skill sets to successfully perform this activity. We anticipate 20-25 landowner contacts of which we would anticipate 6-8 purchase agreements from willing landowners with the most critical habitats in need of protection.

Contracted Program Manager will verify that all proposed project fee title acquisitions receive the required DNR Commissioner approvals and issuance of a third party agreement letter from the DNR. Securing the anticipated 6-8 projects for fee acquisition includes the fulfillment of all ENRTF Fee Title and Restoration requirements which includes; County Board Approval, final negotiations, initial landowner notification, initial site inspections, and DNR review and acceptance processes. Contract Program Manager will also solicit appraisal bids, collection of property documents (deeds/abstracts) from landowner for title review, and secure purchase agreement. Program Manager Professional Services = 438 hrs. x \$60/h = \$26,280. Travel time will be calculated at \$30/hr. –estimated travel time is 60/hrs x \$30/hr = \$2,000

Travel/Mileage by Contracted Program Manager budgeted at \$1,500

Redwood Area Communities Foundation (RACF): Contracted staff Linda Sullivan – Administrative Assistance Redwood Area Development Corporation will be responsible for general grant administration which includes but not limited too; fiscal accountability/audits, grant fund invoices/transfers, and record keeping, coordinating legal documents and filings with legal representative, and document retention. RACF Grant Administration Services is budgeted for \$10,500

RACF Professional Services: Contracted 3rd Party Appraisals. Legal services to create and review purchase agreements and other legal services. RACF Professional Service Budget is estimated a 6 projects @ \$4,500 each = \$24,000

DNR Acquisition Transaction Costs: For direct activities and work associated to the review, process, and transfer title ownership to the DNR/state. To include DNR SNA staff time, Lands and Minerals (LAM) transaction costs and Attorney General Office title reviews/approvals. Cost \$4,000 per project x 6 projects = \$24,000 will be retained by the DNR as per legislative appropriation language.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 88,280
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 88,280

Activity Completion Date: June 2013

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 20-25 Initial parcel reviews and landowner contacts	July 2012	\$40,280
2. 6-8 3 rd Party Appraisals, Legal Review and signed Purchase Agreements	December 2012	\$24,000
3. 6-8 DNR Acquisition Activities: Boundary Surveys, title reviews, closings and title transfers	June 2013	\$24,000

Activity Status as of January 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of July 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of January 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of July 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of January 15, 2014:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2014:

Activity 2: Protect in Fee Title Acquisitions

Description:

Approximately 420 acres will protected by fee title acquisition. The projected cost per acre increased since the original submission due to several factors; recent comparable land sales in the region and listing prices of

comparable lands by individuals and/or auction companies. Projecting land cost 16-20 months out is difficult. These acquired properties will receive County Board Approval and would be deeded to the DNR for inclusion in the SNA program and they will be responsible for all future management activities.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$1,881,720
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$1,881,720

Activity Completion Date: June 2013

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect in fee title 420 acres and transfer to DNR/state	June 2013	\$1,881,720

Activity Status as of January 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of July 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of January 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of July 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of January 15, 2014:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2014:

Activity 3: Initial Site Development/Management

Description:

DNR SNA Program will be responsible for developing a natural resource management plan for each site acquired and initiating site development and management as part of this project. Each management plan will identify site specific development and management activities needed and the ecologically sound timeline for implementing the practices. Development and management activities include installation of boundary signs and entrance sign, construction of a small gravel parking area (if needed for users), invasive species control, woody encroachment removal as needed to return outcrop and prairie areas to more natural condition, prescribed burning (along with development of fire breaks), and, if needed, plant community rehabilitation of degraded portions of sites through supplemental seeding or planting or reconstruction of plant communities if any plowed fields are acquired as buffer (including seed collection, site preparation, planting, and establishment maintenance). The timing and funding of these activities will both depend upon when the lands acquired are under state control (aka after closing by DNR) and SNA standards and procedures needed for ecological integrity of management practices. For example, when the Department has an Election to Purchase on the site, development of a management plan can commence. For projects with DNR closing by March 2014 the DNR can only assure completing the management plan and installing the boundary signs and entrance sign by June 14, 2014. For projects with DNR closing by July 2013, DNR could do the signing, parking area (if needed), first phase of any woody removal, installation of burn breaks and first phase of prescribed burning (if appropriate to site conditions); also it might be ecologically possible to do initial phases of any plant community rehabilitation or reconstruction (e.g. initial seed collection). Scheduling of development and management activities needs to reflect ecological and weather considerations as well as staff/contractor capacity and will therefore be primarily done by the SNA program staff after this appropriation is closed. Cost = \$5,000 per projects x 6 projects = \$30,000 will be retained by the DNR as per legislative appropriation language.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$30,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$30,000

Activity Completion Date: June 2014

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Initial Site Development and Management	June 2014	\$30,000

Activity Status as of January 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of July 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of January 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of July 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of January 15, 2014:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2014:

Final Report Summary:

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Program activities will be announced in various stakeholder and partner meeting presentations. And will also be mentioned on our website. As milestones are accomplished we will also inform regional newspapers.

Status as of January 15, 2012:

Status as of July 15, 2012:

Status as of January 15, 2013:

Status as of July 15, 2013:

Status as of January 15, 2014:

Status as of June 30, 2014:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 10,500	RACF staff – general grant administration - 0.1 FTE average over 3 years of the grant period
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$28,280	Contracted Program Manager Services; Program manager services:438 hrs. x \$60/hr = \$26,280. Travel time will be calculated at an estimate of 60hrs. x \$30/hr = \$2,000.

Fee Title Acquisition:	\$1,881,720	Estimated cost to acquire approx. 420 acres; DNR/State of MN is proposed fee title holder
Professional Services for Acq:	\$78,000	RACF Professional Services-Legal \$24,000, DNR Acquisition Transaction Costs \$24,000, and DNR SNA program for Initial Site Development/Management \$30,000
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$1,500	Contracted Program Manager travel/expenses
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$2,000,000	

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:

RACF = 0.3 FTE for 3 years (0.1 FTE per year)

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation:

Contracted Program Manager – 0.6 FTE for 3 years (0.2 per year)

DNR Acquisition Activities = 0.2 FTE for 2 years (0.1 per year)

DNR Development Activities = 0.2 FTE for 2 years (0.1 per year)

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

We will seek possible landowner donations and will list those if they occur. In-Kind services by partners if applicable will also be listed if they occur.

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Partners Receiving Appropriations for Services:

Redwood Area Communities Foundation (RACF) Professional service administration, oversight, auditing, and fund appropriations.

Brad Cobb – Contracted Project Manager Green Corridor Inc. Responsible for Activities 1 & 2

Minnesota DNR, Scientific and Natural Area Program – Responsible for Activity 13

Partners Not Receiving Appropriations

Tatanka Bluffs Corridor Inc – Advocacy partner

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance – Advocacy partner

Redwood Area Development Corporation – Technical and Advocacy partner

Redwood Area Chamber & Tourism – Advocacy partner

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition program is a continuation of the FY08 ENRTF grant which established the framework for future activities. This phase emphasis will be to protect the most critically sensitive and/or ecologically significant natural resource eco systems as recommended by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The long range strategy is to work in partnership with the DNR and using the FY08 ENRTF funded Green Corridor Conservation Plan, other conservation and natural resource management plans, and technical advisory sources in guiding and directing all future activities in concert with our regional and state-wide partnerships.

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
M.L. Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(e)			\$1,000,000		
M.L. 2009 Chp. 172, Art.1, Sec. 2 Subd. 2(b)				\$1,617,000	
M.L, 2010 Chp 361 Art.1, Sec.2 Subd. 2(b)					\$1,651,000

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 not later than January 15, 2012, July 15, 2012, January 15, 2013, July 15, 2013, January 15, 2014, and June 30, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Title: Minnesota River Green Corridor SNA Acquisition

Project Manager Name: Bradley H. Cobb

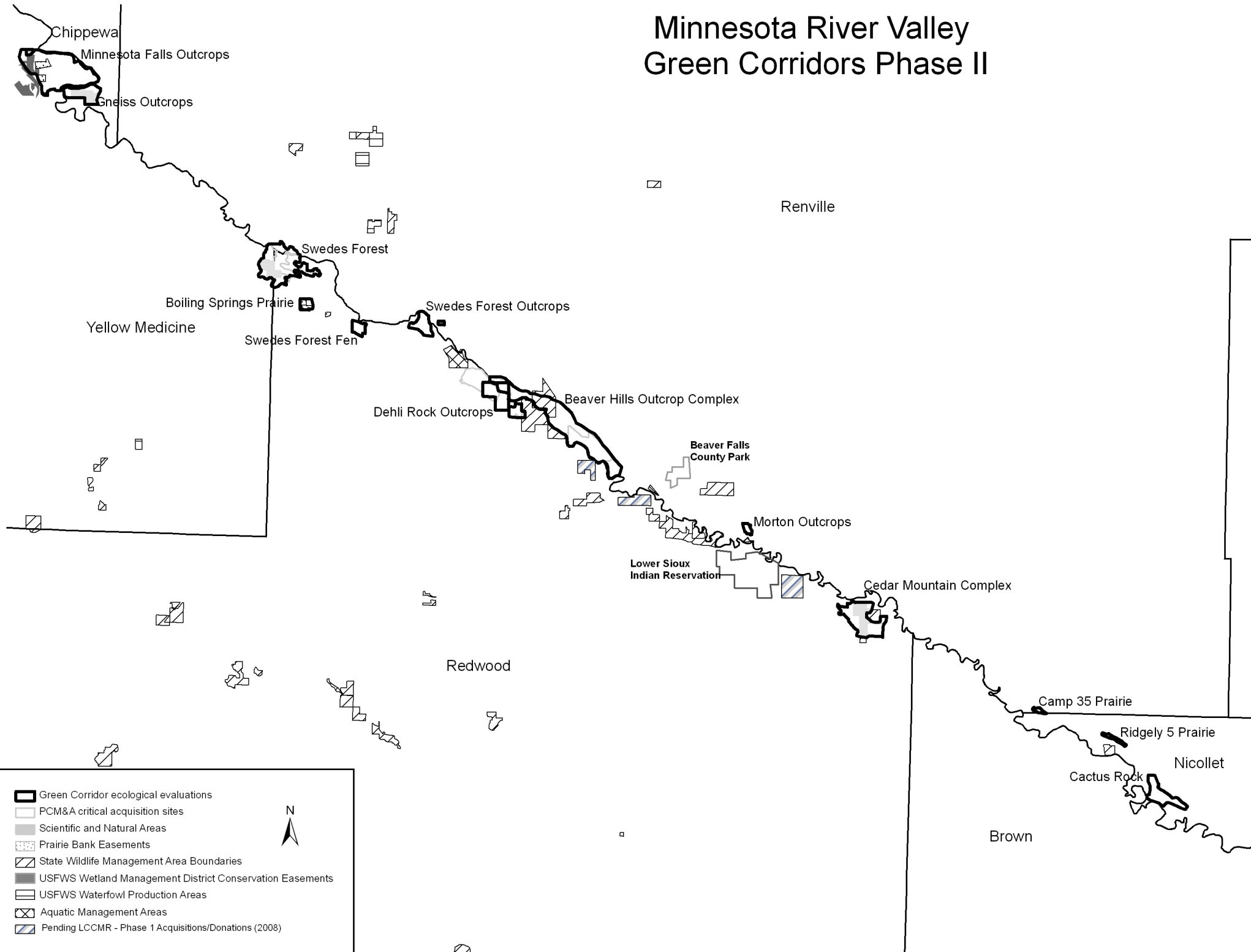
M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Cactus Rock	366405	4919341	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	160		DNR/State of MN	proposed
2	Delhi Rock Outcrops	327710	4942385	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	170		DNR/State of MN	proposed
3	Morton Outcrops	341647	4935327	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	20		DNR/State of MN	proposed
4	Beaver Falls Outcrop	330275	4943200	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	1200		DNR/State of MN	proposed
5	Cedar MT Complex	348519	4929871	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	520		DNR/State of MN	proposed
6	Swedes Forest	313036	4950974	North Central Glaciated Plains	remnant prairie	Fee Title	600		DNR/State of MN	proposed
7	Swedes Forest Outcrop	322106	4947735	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	200		DNR/State of MN	proposed
8	Swedes Forest Fen	318132	4947385	North Central Glaciated Plains	unique fens	Fee Title	140		DNR/State of MN	proposed
9	Boiling Springs Prairie	315016	4948856	North Central Glaciated Plains	remnant prairie	Fee Title	100		DNR/State of MN	proposed
10	MN Falls Outcrop	297829	4963929	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	200		DNR/State of MN	proposed
11	Gneises Outcrops	3011542	4961501	North Central Glaciated Plains	granite outcrops & remnant prairie	Fee Title	200		DNR/State of MN	proposed

NOTES: These listed complexes are compiled from DNR Ecological and Water Resources and in some cases involve multiple landowners within the 4 Key Focus Areas.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects											
Project Title: Minnesota River Green Corridor Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition											
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011 To Come											
Project Manager: Bradley H. Cobb											
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2014											
Date of Update: 06/13/2011											
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Evaluate/Complete Property Consideration			Protect in Fee Title Acquisitions			Initial Site Development Management				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) Linda Sullivan RACF = 0.1 FTE average over 3 years of the grant period	10,500	0	10,500							10,500	10,500
Professional/Technical Contracts Green Corridor Consulting Inc. - Bradley H. Cobb for contracted Program Manager services. Program manager services:438 hrs. x \$60/hr = \$26,280. Travel time will be calculated at an estimate of 60hrs. x \$30/hr = \$2,000.	28,280	0	28,280							28,280	28,280
Fee Title Acquisition: Approx. 420 acres				1,881,720	0	1,881,720				1,881,720	1,881,720
Professional Services for Acquisition: RACF Professional Services (legal) is \$24,000. DNR Professional Services for Acquisitions (AGO & LAM) is 24,000 and DNR Initial Stie Development/Management is \$30,000.	48,000	0	48,000				30,000	0	30,000	78,000	78,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota Travel expenses will be primarily for mileage reimbursement at \$0.50/mile or DNR Commissioner approved rate.	1,500	0	1,500							1,500	1,500
COLUMN TOTAL	\$88,280	\$0	\$88,280	\$1,881,720	\$0	\$1,881,720	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

Minnesota River Valley Green Corridors Phase II



	Green Corridor ecological evaluations
	PCM&A critical acquisition sites
	Scientific and Natural Areas
	Prairie Bank Easements
	State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
	USFWS Wetland Management District Conservation Easements
	USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas
	Aquatic Management Areas
	Pending LCCMR - Phase 1 Acquisitions/Donations (2008)

N