

## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2010 Work Program

**Date of Report:** October 8, 2010  
**Date of Next Progress Report:** December 1, 2010  
**Date of Work Program Approval:** TBD  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2012

### I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP Phase VI Supplemental – Campaign for Conservation (2n-4f)

**Project Manager:** Rich Johnson  
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**Location:** The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will work in several Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Areas. Restoration work is proposed for 1 – Aspen Parklands, 3/7/8 – Border Prairie Transition Zone, 4 – Central Lakes, 10 – Southern Lakes, and 11- Mississippi Bluff Lands. Different activities will be undertaken in each of these areas. Please see the Campaign for Conservation project map.

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 164,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ <u>0</u></b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 164,000</b>

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2n/4f.

#### **Appropriation Language:**

\$1,344,000 is added to Laws 2009, chapter 143, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (e), from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$308,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,036,000 is for agreements as follows: \$425,000 with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$50,000 with National Wild Turkey Federation; \$164,000 with the Nature Conservancy; \$102,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$45,000 with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; and \$50,000 to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe 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 residential structures, unless

expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement.

## **II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

The Conservancy works to “preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.” TNC uses a rigorous planning process called Conservation by Design to identify large-scale, functional landscapes across the state. These areas, if conserved, protect and preserve high-quality examples of all of Minnesota’s native habitats.

For its Phase VI Supplemental “Campaign for Conservation,” the Conservancy proposes to work with its partners to restore quality habitat needed to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants in critical corridors identified by TNC’s and the Habitat Conservation Partnership’s planning processes.

The Conservancy will work with partners to restore 1,185 acres of previously protected habitat using Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funds. An additional 710 acres will be restored with Other Funds. A total of 1,895 acres will be impacted. Activities such as prairie and stream restoration, prescribed fire and invasive controls will be used to improve degraded habitat in the Northern Tallgrass Prairie and Prairie Forest Border regions of the state.

The Conservancy will leverage ENRTF investments with a minimum of \$82,000 of Other Funds.

## **III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF *[insert date of Work Program progress report]*:**

## **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

### **RESULT 1: Restoration**

#### **Description:**

The Conservancy will restore 1,185 acres of existing Conservancy and public-protected prairie, wetlands, savanna, and forest habitat with ENRTF funds. An additional 710 acres will be restored with Other Funds. A total of 1,895 acres will be improved.

Proposed restoration work includes three projects that continue work started in previous appropriations and one new project. The continuing projects are:

The Prairie Forest Border Restoration project will restore and enhance 610 acres with ENRTF funds and 140 acres with Other Funds. These funds will allow the collection and sowing of native seed and use prescribed fire and vegetation control to restore and

enhance native prairie, forest and wetlands on Conservancy- and public-protected lands.

The Sand Prairie Restoration project will restore and enhance 20 acres with ENRTF funds and 15 acres with Other Funds of sand prairie on Conservancy-protected lands in the Weaver Dunes area through site preparation, the collection and sowing of native seed, prescribed fire, vegetation control, and gate installation.

The Western Minnesota Invasives Control and Prescribed Fire project will restore and enhance 465 acres with ENRTF funds and 535 acres with Other Funds. These funds will be used to identify areas most impacted by harmful invasive species, determine strategies for treatment, and treat these areas using herbicides, mechanical means and prescribed fire. Prescribed fire will also be used to restore and enhance other native prairie and wetland areas on additional Conservancy-protected lands.

The Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek Restoration is a new initiative. This project will restore and enhance stream, wetland, and prairie habitat on 90 acres with ENRTF funds and 20 acres with Other Funds. These funds will be used to restore ~950 meters of the original channel of Hay Creek, riparian wetlands, and prairie on Conservancy- and public-protected lands. Activities include project design, site preparation, plugging and filling the current, artificial channel, collecting and sowing native seed, prescribed fire, and vegetation control.

Restoration work will be accomplished by both Conservancy and contract staff. Conservancy staff may include Landscape/Project Managers, Aquatic Ecologists, Field Stewards, Burn Bosses and seasonal work crews

Work on each of these projects will be guided by ecological restoration plans including a timetable for implementation, identifying long-term maintenance/management needs, and verifying that any plantings originate from sources of native ecotypes in Minnesota, preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating as close to the restoration site as possible. These restoration plans will be completed before any ENRTF funds are expended.

TNC's science staff continually reviews restoration projects to ensure that the best available science and techniques are being applied.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 1:** ENRTF Budget: \$ 164,000  
 Amount Spent: \$ 0  
 Balance: \$ 164,000

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. The Prairie Forest Border Restoration Project will restore 610 acres with ENRTF funds	June 30, 2012	\$46,200
2. The Sand Prairie Restoration Project will restore 20 acres with ENRTF funds	June 30, 2012	\$26,250
3. Western Minnesota Invasives Control & Prescribed Fire Project will restore 465 acres with ENRTF funds	June 30, 2012	\$35,050
4. Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek Restoration Project	June 30, 2012	\$56,500

will restore 90 acres with ENRTF funds		
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**Result Status as of:** All Habitat Conservation Partnership progress summaries will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system. This system provides an accomplishment, expenditure and narrative update to LCCMR for each individual work plan.

**Final Report Summary:** The final report will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system and will include the project abstract, and detailed accounting of expenditures and accomplishments for individual work plans.

**V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:**

**Personnel:** \$71,930 (salaries and benefits). This includes \$32,880 for 3 seasonal, short-term Preserve Management Assistants (1.35 FTE) working on the Prairie Forest Border Restoration project. It also includes \$35,050 for 3 seasonal, short-term Preserve Management Assistants (1.85 FTE), 1 seasonal, short-term Stewardship Ecologist (0.35 FTE), 1 seasonal, short-term Spring Burn Crew (0.15 FTE), and 1 seasonal, short-term Fall Burn Crew (0.10 FTE) working on the Western Minnesota Invasives Control and Prescribed Fire project. \$4,000 is included for 1 Aquatic Ecologist and a seasonal burn crew doing short-term work on the Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek project. Figures for these seasonal positions include overtime when deemed necessary and approved by supervisors.

**Contracts:** \$86,250. This work will be done by vendor contractors to be determined. These contracts will be awarded on a competitive basis. \$26,250 is included for the continuing Sand Prairie Restoration project. Work here may include collecting/sowing native seed, using prescribed fire and herbicides to control competing vegetation, and gate installation. It also includes \$7,500 for the Prairie Forest Border Restoration project. These funds will be used for prescribed fire, brush control and weed removal. \$52,500 is included for the Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek Restoration project for activities including site preparation, stream plugging/filling and other dirt work, collecting and sowing native seed, prescribed fire, and vegetation control. We've worked successfully with the Conservation Corps Minnesota on projects such as these in the past and we will seek to work with them again.

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$5,820. This includes \$5,820 for the Prairie Forest Border Restoration project. A preliminary, estimated breakdown of these costs includes \$4,000 for fuel for drip torches, chain saws, and vehicles dedicated 100% to the project and \$1,820 for maintenance supplies/repairs, protective gear/spray equipment, and herbicides. The detailed breakdown provided above is preliminary and only for planning purposes. The final actual expenditures within the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line item may vary from these specific estimates.

**Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):** NA

**Travel:** NA

**Additional Budget Items: NA**

**TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$164,000**

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

## **VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** TNC is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Supplemental work program. Please see main work program for complete partner list.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** Founded in 1958, the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is the largest non-government conservation organization in the state and the only one dedicated specifically to the conservation of biological diversity. TNC currently has 23,000 members and owns and manages over 70,000 acres of grassland, forest and freshwater habitat in Minnesota. Working with our partners, we have helped to protect almost 300,000 additional acres.

TNC's Conservation by Design and Conservation Area Planning processes focus these efforts in the areas most important for preserving diversity. They also guide the long-term restoration and management of the lands where we work. The Minnesota chapter recently completed a ten-year strategic plan. This plan called for acceleration in the work already underway in these critical areas.

LCCMR's six-year strategic plan, adopted in January, 2009, calls for us to work together to, "...preserve, protect, restore and enhance both the bountiful and the threatened natural resources that are the collective heritage of every Minnesotan."

This work program will help achieve the goals of both the Conservancy and the LCCMR. ENRTF and Other Funds will allow us to maintain and enhance the quality of the natural habitat on 1,895 acres of currently protected land and build on restoration work initiated in earlier appropriations

TNC's proven ability to raise funds from private individuals and foundations ensure that the work accomplished with ENRTF funds can be leveraged to accomplish even more. In addition, our dedicated stewardship endowment provides for the long-term care of the lands restored with ENRTF funding.

### **C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:**

The Conservancy will leverage ENRTF investments with a minimum of \$82,000 of Other Funds. The sources for these funds will be private contributions and other, non-state public funding raised by the Conservancy. Projected uses for these funds include: 1) Additional salary, benefits, and supply expenses for restoration projects, and 2) Paying unrecovered indirect costs of restoration projects. For additional information, see the spreadsheet titled, 'Other Funds Detail for 2010 Projects'.

### **D. Spending History:**

This proposal includes funding for three projects receiving ENRTF dollars in previous appropriations. The Prairie Forest Border Restoration project received \$7,900 in M.L.2008, Subd. 3(c)2n and \$65,014 in M.L. 2009, Chap 143, Sec 2, Subd. 4. The

Sand Prairie Restoration project received \$47,884 in M.L. 2009, Chap 143, Sec 2, Subd. 4. The Western Minnesota Invasives Control & Prescribed Fire project received \$35,050 in M.L. 2009, Chap 143, Sec 2, Subd. 4.

**VII. DISSEMINATION:**

Accomplishment Reports and press releases will be made available at <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than December 1, 2010, June 30, 2011, and December 1, 2011. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2012 as requested by the LCCMR. All reports will be generated using the Habitat Conservation Partnership online reporting system.

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:**

NA

<b>Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects</b>					
<b>Project Title: Campaign for Conservation 2n-4f, Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership</b>					
<b>Project Manager Name: Rich Johnson</b>					
<b>Trust Fund Appropriation: \$164,000</b>					
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet					
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable					
<b>2010 Trust Fund Budget</b>	<b>Result 1 Budget:</b>	<b>Amount Spent (date)</b>	<b>Balance (date)</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
	<i>Restoration</i>				
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>					
<b>PERSONNEL: Wages and Benefits</b>	71,930	0	71,930	71,930	71,930
Result 1 - This item includes work on three projects: \$32,880 for 3 seasonal, short-term Preserve Management Assistants (1.35 FTE) working on the Prairie Forest Border Restoration project; \$35,050 for 3 seasonal, short-term Preserve Management Assistants (1.85 FTE), 1 seasonal, short-term Stewardship Ecologist (0.35 FTE), 1 seasonal, short-term Spring Burn Crew (0.15 FTE), and 1 seasonal, short-term Fall Burn Crew (0.10 FTE) working on the Western Minnesota Invasives Control and Prescribed Fire project; \$4,000 for 1 Aquatic Ecologist and 1 seasonal burn crew doing short-term work on the Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek project. Figures for these seasonal positions include overtime when deemed necessary and approved by supervisors.					
<b>Contracts</b>					
<b>Professional/Technical</b>	86,250	0	86,250	86,250	86,250
Result 1 - This work will be done by vendor contractors TBD. \$26,250 is included for the continuing Sand Prairie Restoration project. Work here may include collecting/sowing native seed, using prescribed fire and herbicides to control competing vegetation, and gate installation. It also includes \$7,500 for the Prairie Forest Border Restoration project. These funds will be used for prescribed fire, brush control and weed removal. \$52,500 is included for the Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek Restoration project for activities including site preparation, stream plugging/filling and other dirt work, collecting and sowing native seed, prescribed fire, and vegetation control.					
<b>Non-Capital Equipment / Tools</b>	5,820	0	5,820	5,820	5,820
Result 1 - This includes \$5,820 for the Prairie Forest Border Restoration project. Estimated costs include \$4000 for fuel for drip torches, chain saws, and vehicles dedicated 100% to the project and \$1,820 for maintenance supplies/repairs, protective gear/spray equipment, and herbicides. The detailed breakdown provided above is preliminary and only for planning purposes. The final allocation within each project is subject to change.					
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$164,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$164,000</b>	<b>\$164,000</b>	<b>\$164,000</b>

<b>Other Funds Detail for 2010 Projects</b>		
<b>Project Title: Campaign for Conservation 2n-4f, Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership</b>		
<b>Project Manager Name: Rich Johnson</b>		
As requested in the Work Program guidance document, this spreadsheet includes information on the projected additional state and/or non-state money, cash or in-kind funds that will be spent on these projects during the funding period.		
<b>Spreadsheet With Projected Other Funds</b>		
<b>2010 Other Funds</b>	<b>Funds Source</b>	<b>Projected Funds</b>
Restoration: Salary/Benefits/Supplies.	Private and other non-state funds raised by the Conservancy	\$36,000
Restoration: Unrecovered Indirect Costs - The Conservancy's current federally approved negotiated indirect cost recovery rate is 23.13% and is updated annually. The rate used applied to this project is 23% and has been applied to restoration expenses funded with ENRTF funds and Other Funds.	Private and other non-state funds raised by the Conservancy	\$46,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$82,000</b>
*Other Funds for these projects will total a minimum of \$82,000. The breakout shown here, however, is based on current projections. The figures for the individual categories of Other Funds will be subject to change as these projects develop.		



**Result 1 - Restoration /Management - Potential Project List\***  
**Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership**  
**Campaign for Conservation 2n-4f**  
**Last Updated: October 8, 2010**

<i>Project Name</i> <i>Project Location(s)</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Phase VI</i> <i>Proj. Area</i>	<i>Total Cost</i> <i>(Estimated)</i>	<i>Total Acres</i> <i>(Estimated)</i>
<b>Prairie Forest Border Restoration</b>	Restore/enhance native prairie, forest and wetlands through collecting/sowing native seed, prescribed fire, and control of competing vegetation.	Multiple	4,7,10,11	<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>750</b>
Weaver Dunes Preserve		Wabasha T109N R9W S7	11		100
Lake Alexander Preserve		Morrison T131N R30W S6	4		150
Paul Bunyan Savanna		Crow Wing T133N R28W S5	4		50
Ordway Prairie Preserve		Stearns T123N R36W S30	7		100
Regal Meadow Preserve		Pope T122N R33W S16	7		30
Sheepberry Fen		Pope T123N R37W S27	7		100
Ottawa Bluffs Preserve		LeSueur T110N R26W S3	10		20
Camp Ripley Military Reservation		Morrison T132N R30W S27	4		150
Kellogg-Weaver Dunes SNA		Wabasha T109N R9W S6	11		25
McCarthy Lake WMA		Wabasha T109N R10W S12	11		25
<b>Sand Prairie Restoration</b>	Restore converted land to sand prairie through site preparation, collecting/sowing native seed, prescribed fire, and vegetation control.		11	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>35</b>
Weaver Dunes Preserve		Wabasha T109N R9W S18	11		35

<b>Western Minnesota Invasives Control &amp; Prescribed Fire</b>	Identify areas with critical invasive species issues, treat using herbicides, mechanical means & prescribed fire. Restore/enhance native prairie on additional lands with prescribed fire.	Multiple	1,3,7,8	<b>\$75,500</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Anna Gronseth Prairie		Wilkin T134N R45W S9	3		110
Blazing Star Prairie SNA		Clay T141N R45W S5	3		15
Bluestem Prairie SNA		Clay T139N R46W S22	3		480
Margherita Preserve - Audubon Prairie		Clay T139N R45W S32	3		40
Pankratz Memorial Prairie		Polk T149N R45W S17	1		80
Pembina Trail Preserve SNA		Polk T149N R45W S36	1		140
R & M Rice Elliott SNA		Wilkin T136N R45W S17	3		40
Seven Sisters Prairie		Otter Tail T131N R40W S32	3		10
Staffanson Prairie		Douglas T127N R40W S7	3		10
Strandness Prairie		Pope T125N R38W S6	3/7/8		5
Town Hall Prairie		Wilkin T134N R45W S15	3		25
Twin Valley Prairie SNA		Norman T143N R45W S23	3		40
Zimmerman Prairie		Becker T142N R43W S16	3/7/8		5
<b>Bluestem Prairie Hay Creek Restoration</b>	Restore channelized stream and converted land to earlier channel, wetlands and prairie using stream plugging/filling, collecting/sowing native see, prescribed fire, and vegetation control.		3	<b>\$69,500</b>	<b>110</b>
Bluestem Prairie SNA		Clay T139N R46W S22	3		110
<b>TOTAL GOAL</b>			<b>1,3,4,7,8,10,11</b>	<b>\$246,000</b>	<b>1,895</b>

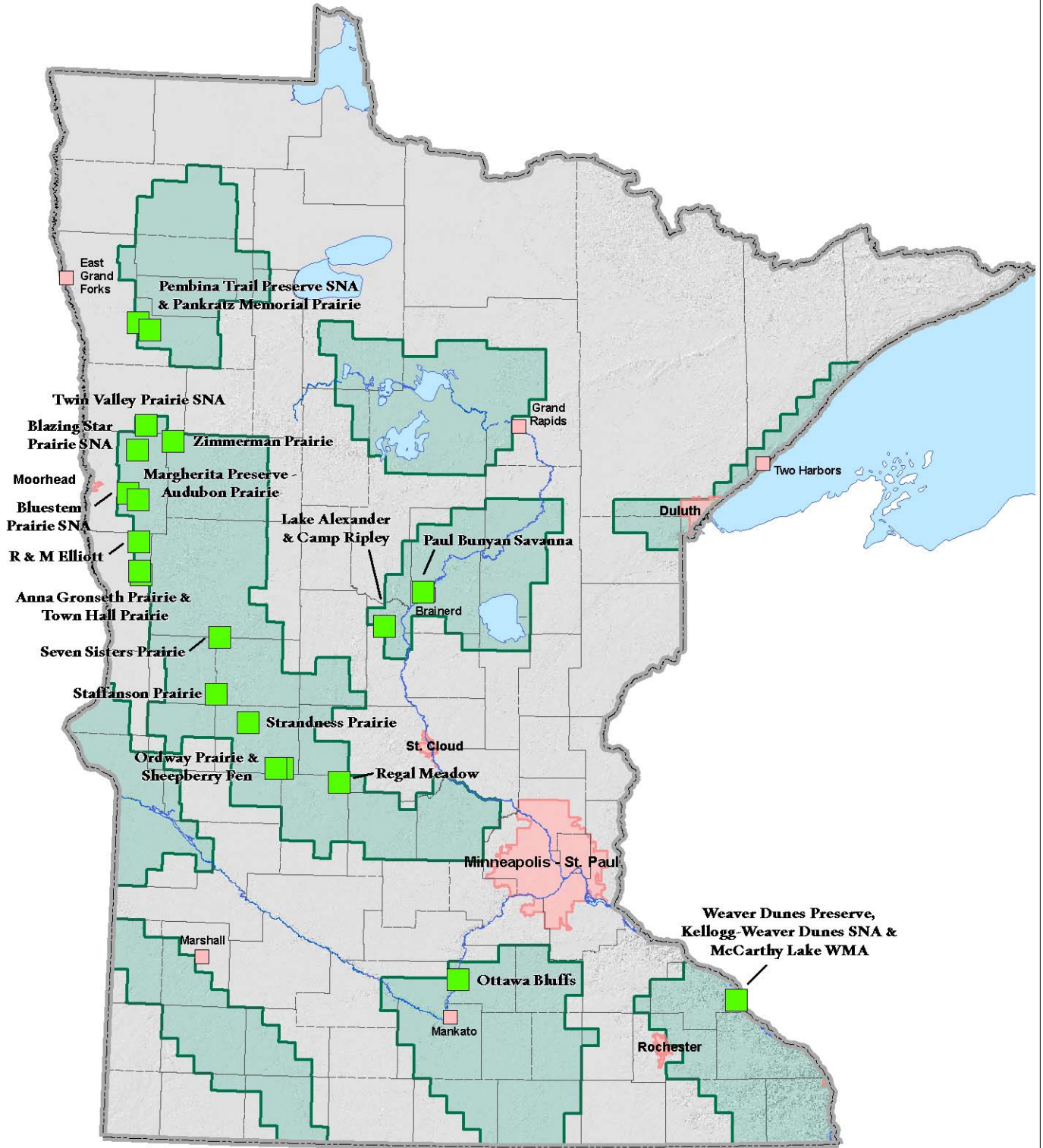
\*Please note that these are a list of potential projects. More projects are listed than budget allocated in order to plan for the possibility that some projects may not come to fruition. Therefore, the total acreage included in the above list exceeds the total acres to be restored pursuant to this grant. In addition, additional projects that meet the strategic objectives of the Partnership may be added via submission of a project list amendment.

*Total Cost and Total Acres include ETF as well as Other Funds dollars and acres.*

# Campaign for Conservation

## The Nature Conservancy Potential Project List

October 2010 Revision



\*Please note that these are potential projects and just because a project is listed does not mean it will be completed. All restoration projects are done on Conservancy lands or public-protected lands. Projects not on this map that meet the strategic objectives of the Partnership may be added. More projects are listed than budget allocated to plan for the possibility that some projects may not come to fruition.

### Legend

- Restoration Project Locations
- Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Areas

