

# FINAL REPORT

3d1

## LCMR Proposal 2005 – Habitat Corridors Partnership Phase III 3d

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Wetlands Reserve Program  
**Project Manager:** Roger Pederson (DU) & Tim Koehler (USDA-NRCS)  
**Affiliation:** Ducks Unlimited and USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Total Biennial Project Budget (LCMR Request): \$350,000**

**II. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:** By adding outreach and engineering personnel to the existing NRCS capacity, LCMR funds help target, implement, and expand the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) by building “demand” for WRP contracts within Minnesota. The federal WRP is one of the nation’s most successful programs for restoring wetlands. The LCMR/DU/NRCS partnership complements existing wetland protection programs and attracts additional federal WRP and NAWCA funding.

### Result 3: Conservation Easement Programs

**Description:** Ducks Unlimited (DU) is requesting \$350,000 from LCMR in FY2006-07 to help restore, acquire, and perpetually protect 5,000 acres of wetlands, shallow lakes and associated upland complexes for wildlife in key prairie and prairie transition areas of Minnesota as designated by LCMR Corridor Areas. This request will be matched with an estimated \$5 million in federal sources as part of the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Under a current LCMR Corridors grant, five (5) WRP contract positions have been employed to assist NRCS in delivering the federal Wetlands Reserve Program in Corridor Areas. Funding from this proposal will be used to continue the existing positions for 1 additional year. To date, LCMR funds have leveraged over \$30 million in federal funds to restore 30,000 acres in Minnesota.

<b>Proposed Budget for Result 3d</b>	<b>LCMR Budget</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>
	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$5,350,000</b>

Pers.*	Acq.	Equip. **	Total
\$340,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$350,000

\*\$34,000 in personnel for direct costs accrued by Project Manager and/or DU administrative support personnel for WRP program coordination. CONTRACT PERSONNEL costs are costs to provide 5 FTEs of wetland restoration specialist and engineering support

\*\* EQUIPMENT to be purchased and donated to NRCS will include: ATV & ATV trailer, Trimble total station with software and download hardware, and laser level.

**Proposed Sources of Other Funds Budget for Result 3d:** Other funds of \$5,000,000 will come from the federal Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### **III. BUDGET HISTORY**

2001 LCMR for DU/NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program: \$ 350,000

2003 LCMR for DU/NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program: \$465,100

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**Attachment A, August 2004**

**Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors - Wetland Reserve Program (3d part 1).**

**Project Number: CH01**

**LCMR Recommended Funding: \$350,000**

**Attachment A Deliverable Products and Related Budget**

**2003 LCMR  
Project Biennial Budget**

		Result 1 Budget:	Result 1 Previously Invoiced	Result 1 Uninvoiced Expense	Result 1 Balance:	PROJECT TOTAL:		
Budget Item (Title of Result)						BUDGET TOTAL:	CURRENT EXPENSE TOTAL:	BALANCE TOTAL:
<b>Wages, salaries &amp; benefits</b>	<b>Detail</b>							
DU Professional Staff (project supervisor, biologists, engineers, etc)		\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00
Wages subtotal		\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00
<b>Contracts</b>								
Contract WRP Technicians	5 FTEs	\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00	\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00
Contracts Subtotal		\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00	\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00
Travel, field supplies, and Misc costs		\$ 25,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 25,000.00
Equipment	ATV, trailer, survey equip	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 10,000.00
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>		\$ 350,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 350,000.00

**Date of Report:** June 30, 2004  
**LCMR Work Program Final Report**

**Date of Workprogram Approval:** May 6, 2003 (amended 7/11/03, 7/22/03, 9/29/03, 5/3/04, 5/17/04 & 6/3/04)

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2004

- I. Project Title:** CH-01 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors, Part 3d1 & 3d2 - Wetlands Reserve Program, Project Areas 1 (Aspen Parklands), 3 (Border Prairie), 6 (Upper Minnesota River), 7 (Alexandria Moraine), 9 (Des Moines River Valley), and 10 (Southern Lakes)

This project has 2 parts. Part 1 (3d1) includes the expenditure of Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars to contract with WRP technicians and purchase equipment and is administered by Ducks Unlimited (DU). Part 2 (3d2) is the accomplishment component of this project, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and includes reporting on matching dollars and total acres enrolled. This cover page is used to acknowledge and collate the 2 separate reporting processes and reports appended here.

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Project Manager, 3d2: Tim Koehler  
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**Total Biennial Project Budget: \$350,000 (the original project budget was \$350,000; on March 14, 2003, \$210,000 was transferred to DU as the new project sponsor). This report only covers the \$210,000 in funds transferred to DU. This work program required a change in project administrator.**

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Spent to date	Balance
2003	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$-0-
2004	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$-0-
Total	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$-0-

**LEGAL CITATION:** ML. 2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 4(e)  
Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors.

**Appropriation Language:** \$5,873,000 the first year and \$5,872,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Forest Service to restore and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. \$352,000 is for program coordination, corridor identification, and mapping. \$3,343,000 is for restoration and management activities in wildlife management areas, wetland habitat, lakes, wild rice beds, grasslands, and fisheries habitat. \$2,650,000 is for conservation easement programs on riparian areas, big woods forests, native prairies, and wetlands. \$5,400,000 is for habitat acquisition activities on prairies, riparian areas, and other fish and wildlife habitat corridors. As part of the required work program, criteria and priorities for planned acquisition and restoration activities must be submitted to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for review and approval. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Any land acquired in fee title by the Commissioner of Natural Resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may so designate any lands acquired in less than fee title.

## **II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:**

During the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant project period (Phase I), over 22,479 habitat acres (including 7,646 wetland acres) were restored and protected via perpetual easements in 6 priority Habitat Corridor Partnership areas (Project Areas 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, & 10). Federal matching funds (for easement and habitat restoration costs) totaled \$29,477,155. Given federal staffing restrictions and NRCS workloads, contract tech support (via financial support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund) was absolutely critical to increasing the amount of acres enrolled and restored in Minnesota's Wetlands Reserve Program. Increased WRP applications enabled Minnesota to rank second nationally in FY03 in securing federal funding for WRP.

Under this project, DU used Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars to hire and supervise five contract technicians in four locations (Crookston, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Albert Lea) to expand the federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) implementation in various Habitat Corridor Partnership project areas. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars was also used to purchase necessary field equipment (ATVs, survey equipment, etc.,) for contract techs. This equipment has been donated to the NRCS to be used exclusively on the WRP for the useful life of the equipment.

WRP offers landowners the opportunity to take marginal lands out of ag production and restore them to their natural state. The landowner is paid the agricultural value for the property and up to 100% cost share for restoration activities. Once an easement is recorded, the landowner has one year to start the restoration and three years from recording to complete the restoration.

#### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

**Result 1: Wetland Reserve Program Technical Assistance**  
**LCMR Budget: \$210,000; LCMR Spent: \$210,000; Balance: \$-0-**

**Result 1:** DU provided technical and administrative assistance to NRCS field offices and landowners. DU promoted the WRP program in conjunction with other LCMR partners in Project Areas #1, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 and protected (via perpetual easements) and restored important wetlands habitats within targeted HCP corridors. DU contract technicians have implemented all aspects of the WRP program, and DU provided coordinating administrative support.

##### **Result 1 – Budget:**

##### **Contract Personnel: \$169,161.74 – LCMR funds**

Contract Technicians =	\$152,186.74
Contractor Charges =	\$ 16,000.00
Contractor Charges (out-state travel)	\$ 975.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$169,161.74</b>

DU provided contract technicians and administrative support for these positions. NRCS provided vehicles, office space and supplies, limited equipment, and training. Limited costs for travel and misc. charges (cell phone charges, field supplies, printing, etc.) were included in the Contract Technician budget line. A contractor was used to accomplish wetland restoration work that could not be conducted by the wetland technicians alone. The contractor provided specific products (topo survey, wetland water control structure or dike design, etc.) deemed necessary for selected WRP restoration sites. The contractor was selected in consultation with MN NRCS from MN NRCS' list (approved per federal A/E procurement requirements) for Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts.

##### **Personnel/Administrative = \$13,000.00 – LCMR Funds**

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>= \$</b>	<b>13,000.00</b>
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##### **Travel (In-State) = \$116.16 – LCMR Funds**

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>= \$</b>	<b>116.16</b>
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##### **Equipment = \$27,100.27 – LCMR Funds**

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>= \$</b>	<b>27,100.27</b>
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Note : Equipment purchased under the prior project administrator is accounted for and held by NRCS and will continue to be used for this project throughout its useful life. Equipment purchased while this project was administered by DU is listed in Attachment A1. NRCS has agreed to accept all equipment and include as part of their inventory and only use the equipment for purposes of this agreement throughout the equipment's useful life.

**Supplies and miscellaneous = \$621.83 – LCMR Funds**  
**Subtotal = \$ 621.83**

**Result 1 Status:** June 30, 2004 – Five WRP Technicians were hired and placed in NRCS offices. NRCS and DU provided ongoing training for the WRP Technicians as necessary. The technicians worked on new and existing WRP applications or projects within the habitat corridor areas they were assigned. Currently, the five WRP technicians switched to LCMR HCP WRP 3d1 Phase II funding on 1 July 2004 to continue to provide technical assistance to NRCS to implement the WRP program in HCP Corridor Areas. Equipment was purchased for the Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Albert Lea positions from funding from this project in the following manner: 1 Trimble Recon Controller for Albert Lea, 2 Trimble LL600 Laser Levels for Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls, 1 GPS Backpack unit for Fergus Falls, 2 digital cameras for Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes, 2 Honda ATVs for Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes, 1 notebook computer for the Detroit Lakes position and ATV ramps and winches for the Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls position. Spectra Laser Level and associated field survey equipment for the Crookston position. NRCS has acknowledged donation of this equipment and these items are now on NRCS inventory. WRP is currently authorized until at least 2008 by the federal Farm Bill; technicians will be needed until that time, but this phase of the project ended on June 30, 2004.

**V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:**

	Spent	Balance
All Results: Contract Personnel = \$ 152,186.74	\$152,186.74	\$ -0-
All Results: Contractor Charges= \$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -0-
All Results: Contractor (out state trvl) =\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -0-
All Results: Personnel/Admin = \$ 13,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -0-
All Results: In-State Travel = \$ 116.16	\$ 116.16	\$ -0-
All Results: Equipment = \$ 27,100.27	\$ 27,100.27	\$ -0-
All Results: Supplies/Misc. = \$ 621.83	\$ 621.83	\$ -0-
<b>TOTAL = \$ 210,000.00</b>	<b>\$210,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>

**TOTAL BUDGET: \$210,000.00; Total Spent = \$210,000.00; Balance = \$ -0-.**

**See: ATTACHMENT A for complete budget details**

**VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:**

DU has a national interest in promoting the WRP program, especially in the Great Plains Region. Implementation of the federal Farm Bill is a key component to DU's habitat efforts.

**A. Past Spending:** Since 2000, DU has partnered with NRCS in several ways to promote and implement WRP through a partnership agreement. DU has employed 3 staff to promote and implement WRP in southcentral, westcentral and northwest Minnesota. DU has assisted in the design and construction of several large projects, and have helped secure several easements by providing incentive payments to landowners. In total, DU has contributed more than \$250,000 towards implementation of WRP in Minnesota since 2000.

**B. Current and Future Spending:** DU currently has 2.5 FTE directly involved in delivering WRP; we also have another contract technician (funded with Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund dollars) in Appleton, MN who assists with Farm Bill program delivery. Current annual costs to DU for this program is approximately \$150,000. We expect to continue this effort, leverage additional dollars, and expand our role in delivering WRP to maximize the conservation of private lands habitat. Additionally, DU and NRCS entered into a contribution agreement that matched Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars on a 1:1 basis with Farm Bill technical assistance funds from NRCS. With this additional funding, we will provide even more technical assistance for WRP implementation.

**C. Project Partners:** For this workprogram, the principal partners are DU and NRCS. All staff worked with other partners (e.g., FWS, DNR, etc.) to maximize utilization of the WRP program.

#### **VII. DISSEMINATION:**

Both Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service held at least bi-yearly staff meetings where WRP accomplishments (supported by funding from the Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund) were presented. At least once a year, NRCS held a WRP training session and workshop where administration protocols and restoration techniques were discussed and adjustments as necessary were made to field procedures. Both Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have highlighted Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund financial support to Minnesota's WRP in press releases, news letters and field events. Some of the more significant field events included an Earth Day celebration at the Glacial Ridge project in NW Minnesota. NRCS Chief Bruce Knight attended the event. A national DU/NRCS MOU signing occurred on July 27, 2004 on a WRP site in Steele County. State Senator Dennis Frederickson, NRCS Chief Bruce Knight, DU Executive Vice President Don Young, and James Connaughton (Chairman of President Bush's Council on Environmental Quality) attended and provided remarks.

News of the project and individual accomplishments will be disseminated by periodic news releases from partners included in the LCMR project, and NRCS/SWCD field offices. Information about the corridor project and WRP progress will be incorporated into the NRCS WRP web page located at the following address: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/ecs/wrp/>

#### **VIII. LOCATION:**

The majority of the time spent by the personnel hired through the LCMR project will be in Project Areas 1, 3, and 10, but some projects are also likely in Project Areas #6, #7, and #9.

**Attachment A. Final Work Program Budget, June 30, 2004**

**Project Title: Wetlands Reserve Program Technical Assistance (part 3d1 of CH-01) LCMR**

**Recommended Funding: \$210,000**

2001 LCMR Project Biennial Budget		Result 1 Budget:	Result 1 Spent:	Result 1 Balance:	PROJECT TOTAL:		
Budget Item (WRP Technical Assistance, part 3d1 of CH-01)	Detail				BUDGET TOTAL:	TOTAL SPENT TO DATE:	BALANCE TOTAL:
<b>Wages, salaries &amp; benefits</b>	<b>Detail</b>						
DU Professional Staff (project supervisors, biologists, etc)		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-
Wages subtotal		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-
<b>Contracts</b>							
Contract WRP Technician		\$ 152,186.74	\$ 152,186.74	\$ -0-	\$ 152,186.74	\$ 152,186.74	\$ -0-
Contractor Charges		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -0-
Contractor out state travel		\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -0-	\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -0-
Contracts Subtotal		\$ 169,161.74	\$ 169,161.74	\$ -0-	\$ 169,161.74	\$ 169,161.74	\$ -0-
Travel in State		\$ 116.16	\$ 116.16	\$ -0-	\$ 116.16	\$ 116.16	\$ -0-
Equipment	ATV, laser level, computer	\$ 27,100.27	\$ 27,100.27	\$ -0-	\$ 27,100.27	\$ 27,100.27	\$ -0-
Supplies and Miscellaneous		\$ 621.83	\$ 621.83	\$ -0-	\$ 621.83	\$ 621.83	\$ -0-
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 210,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 210,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>	<b>\$ 210,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 210,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>

**ATTACHMENT A1 - (rev. 6/30/04)**

Detail of Equipment for WRP techs (Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Crookston, and Albert Lea positions)

Equipment List	Estimated Price	Units	Total	Useful life
Trimble Recon Controller	\$2,376.25	1	\$ 2,376.25	4 yr
Notebook computer	2,248.24	1	2,248.24	4 yr
Trimble LL600 package	1,756.12	2	3,512.24	5 yr
Spectra Laser	1,580.00	1	1,580.00	5 yr
Configuration I GPS	1,379.77	2	2,759.54	5 yr
Digital cameras	569.75	2	1,139.50	4 yr
Honda ATV Rancher	5,875.25	2	11,750.50	3 yr
ATV ramps and winches	600.00	2	1,200.00	3 yr
Survey Equip Accessories	534.00	sev	534.00	3 yr
Equipment total			\$27,100.27	