

2003 Project Abstract

For the period ending June 30, 2006

TITLE: Good Lake Waterfowl Enhancement Project, Phase II - #CH-03-2e**PROJECT MANAGER:** Jay T. Huseby**ORGANIZATION:** Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, D.N.R.**ADDRESS:** Red Lake, MN 56671**TELEPHONE:** (218)-679-3959**E-MAIL:** jhuseby@paulbunyan.net**FUND:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 2003, Ch. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 5(a)**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$90,150.00Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project continued activities (begun during phase – I) centered on a 2,000-acre impoundment in the northwestern corner of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, in an area known to attract large numbers of migrating and breeding waterfowl. An 80-acre nesting island was cleared of brush and woody debris, and then planted with a grass seed mix to promote waterfowl nesting and use by grassland species. Fire, chemical and mechanical treatments were used to remove woody vegetation from the island. Six half-acre nesting islands / hunter blind sites were constructed and seeded with a grass seed mix to promote secure waterfowl nesting and provide hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Fifty waterfowl nesting structures were built, installed and monitored to promote local waterfowl production and attract cavity-nesting species. A total of 3,000 pounds of wild rice seed was hand-seeded into the impoundment to provide a natural, self-regenerating wildlife food source. Three boat landings and associated parking areas were cleared of vegetation and improved (perimeter posts and cable installed) and about 10 miles of roads were graded and leveled to improve public access to the site. A boat landing was also constructed on the large island. Forty acres of barley and 30 acres of mixed upland food plots were established adjacent to the impoundment to attract migratory waterfowl, and 500 acres of grassland was burned to increase attractiveness to grassland species. Predator scent-post and winter track surveys were conducted on the site, and waterfowl, secretive marsh bird and small mammal use was documented. Data will be used track trends in wildlife use of available habitats and to evaluate current and future management activities.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Interpretive signs, describing the project and partners, were designed and placed at 3 locations and the project was described at the 2005 Upper Mississippi – Great Lakes Native American Fish and Wildlife Society meeting.

The U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs provided considerable support for this project through its Circle of Flight Program. A description of the project, and its many accomplishments appeared in several Circle of Flight publications.

Evaluating wildlife response to effects of project activities may lead to more efficient management of similar sites and habitats.

Date of Report: June 30, 2006
LCMR Final Work Program Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Good Lake Waterfowl Enhancement Project, Phase II.

Project Manager: Jay T. Huseby, Ph.D.
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Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget: **LCMR Appropriation:** \$90,150.00
 Minus Amount Spent: \$90,150.00
 Equal Balance: \$0.00

Legal Citation: ML 2003, Chp. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 5(a).

Appropriation Language: 5,000,000 (Env. Trust Fund) Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase II - \$250,000,000 the first year and \$250,000,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the second biennium for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. 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 before expenditure. Expenditures are limited to the 11 project 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. 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. The appropriation is available until June 30, 2006, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project continued activities (begun during phase – I) centered on a 2,000-acre impoundment in the northwestern corner of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, in an area known to attract large numbers of migrating and breeding waterfowl. An 80-acre nesting island was cleared of brush and woody debris, and then planted with a grass seed mix to

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promote waterfowl nesting and use by grassland species. Fire, chemical and mechanical treatments were used to remove woody vegetation from the island. Six half-acre nesting islands / hunter blind sites were constructed and seeded with a grass seed mix to promote secure waterfowl nesting and provide hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Fifty waterfowl nesting structures were built, installed and monitored to promote local waterfowl production and attract cavity-nesting species. A total of 3,000 pounds of wild rice seed was hand-seeded into the impoundment to provide a natural, self-regenerating wildlife food source. Three boat landings and associated parking areas were cleared of vegetation and improved (perimeter posts and cable installed) and about 10 miles of roads were graded and leveled to improve public access to the site. A boat landing was also constructed on the large island. Forty acres of barley and 30 acres of mixed upland food plots were established adjacent to the impoundment to attract migratory waterfowl, and 500 acres of grassland was burned to increase attractiveness to grassland species. Predator scent-post and winter track surveys were conducted on the site, and waterfowl, secretive marsh bird and small mammal use was documented. Data will be used track trends in wildlife use of available habitats and to evaluate current and future management activities.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Waterfowl and public access enhancement activities at Good Lake Impoundment.

To promote public use, three boat access ramps and visitor parking areas were repaired and maintained, and access roads leading to the impoundment were improved. Activities included vegetation removal, earth moving, and road grading. An ice-road was built and maintained during winter months to allow heavy equipment access to the island. A boat landing was constructed on the large (80-acre) island to facilitate equipment on/off loading. This required dredging adjacent to the island to allow direct boat access. Woody vegetation was removed and suppressed on an 80-acre nesting island. Woody debris left from logging and clearing activities was piled and aspen regeneration was sheared. A firebreak was cleared around the large island and attempts were made to burn debris piles. Additional burning activities will be required to further reduce debris. Two aerial applications of herbicide were conducted, in preparation for grassland seeding on the large island. A double-rate, aerial seeding of a native grass (CP-25 native grass mix) mix occurred on the large island, and 6 small islands / hunter blind sites were built up (additional earth and rock added) and seeded to grass. Maintenance of grasslands adjacent to impoundment and on small islands / hunter blind sites was conducted to set back encroachment of woody vegetation. Predator scent-post surveys and winter track surveys were conducted, and surveys for waterfowl, secretive marsh birds, and small mammals were conducted. Information will be used to guide future management activities. Fifty waterfowl nesting structures, located within the impoundment, were refurbished, monitored and maintained to promote local recruitment. Natural strain wild rice (3,000 pounds) was seeded into the impoundment, and 70 acres of upland food plots were established in 2004 and 2005 (adjacent to the impoundment) to promote use by

migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. Interpretive signs, describing project activities and partners, were developed and installed at access sites, and project highlights were presented at the Great Lakes Regional Native American Fish and Wildlife Conference during fall, 2005.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: **LCMR Budget** **\$90,150.00**
 Balance **\$0.00**

	Personnel	Equipment	Development	Other	Total
LCMR	\$0.00	\$7,830.00	\$82,320.00	\$0.00	\$90,150.00
BIA	\$136,116.72	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$24,952.64	\$163,069.36
RLB	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Total	\$136,116.72	\$27,830.00	\$84,320.00	\$24,952.64	\$273,219.36

Completion Date: June 30, 2006

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$0.00
All Results: Equipment: \$7,830.00
All Results: Development \$82,320.00

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$90,150.00

Total Red Lake Project Budget by Category and Funding Source:

*Expenses accrued: December 4, 2003, through June 30, 2006.

	Budget	*Total Expenses	Ending Balance
Personnel			
LCMR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BIA/COF	\$136,116.72	\$136,116.72	\$0.00
RLBCI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$136,116.72	\$136,116.72	\$0.00
Equipment			
LCMR*	\$7,830.00	\$7,830.00	\$0.00
BIA/COF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RLBCI	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Total	\$27,830.00	\$27,830.00	\$0.00
Development			
LCMR	\$82,320.00	\$82,320.00	\$0.00
BIA/COF	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00

RLBCI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$84,320.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other			
LCMR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BIA/COF	\$24,952.64	\$24,952.64	\$0.00
RLBCI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$24,952.64	\$24,952.64	\$0.00
TOTAL			
LCMR	\$90,150.00	\$90,150.00	\$0.00
BIA/COF	\$163,069.36	\$163,069.36	\$0.00
RLBCI	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$273,219.36	\$273,219.36	\$0.00

VI. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

The Good Lake Waterfowl Enhancement Project began in July, 2002. Project activities continue, and are supported by commitments from LCMR Project: "Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Corridors" - #CH-010-2e (\$137,492.00), the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs' Circle of Flight Program (\$80,700.00), and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (\$43,750.00).

B. Current Spending:

In addition to LCMR dollars, Phase II activities will be supported by the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs' Circle of Flight Program (\$163,069.36), and in-kind contributions from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (\$20,000.00).

C. Required Match:

D. Future Spending:

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians will continue to manage this area for waterfowl and other wetland-dependant wildlife populations after completion of Phase II objectives. The site will likely be considered for future restoration and enhancement efforts, as well as research projects. The Red Lake Band will support maintenance activities and future projects (restoration and/or research) could be supported by a wide variety of funding sources.

VII. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners Receiving LCMR Funds:

B. Project Cooperators:

VIII. DISSEMINATION:

The Red Lake Band and Bureau of Indian Affairs (Circle of Flight) have partnered with a wide variety of federal, state, and private wildlife organizations during the past 10 years

and have successfully completed a number of "high profile" wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration projects. Members of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem Team toured the Good Lake project site in 2001, and Phase I project results have been presented at several professional fish and wildlife meetings. The successful completion of this project will undoubtedly attract additional partners for future management efforts in and around the Good Lake project site.

IX. LOCATION:

The project site is located near the western edge of the Diminished Red Lake Indian Reservation, in northern Clearwater County.

X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than 30 November, 2003; 30 March, 2004; 30 November, 2004; 30 March, 2005; and 30 November, 2005 to LCMR. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by 30 June, 2006.

Attachment A. Deliverable Products and Related Budget – LCMR Funds Only
Project Title: Good Lake Waterfowl Restoration Project, Phase II.
Legal Citation: ML 2003, Chap. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 5(b).
Period covered by reimbursement request: July 1, 2005 through April 5, 2006

Budget Item	Budget	Beginning Balance	Current Invoice	Ending Balance
Personnel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment 2 – hand planters @ \$550.00 2 – drip torches @ \$380.00 3 – brush saws @ \$4,500.00 2 – chain saws @ \$900.00 3 sets protective clothing / equip. @ \$1,500.00	\$7,830.00	\$3,380.29	\$2,097.44	\$1,282.85 ^a
Development “vendor services” field prep. / seeding 30 acres mixed seed food plot (2 yrs.) @ \$10,970.00 field prep. / seeding 40 acres barley food plots (2 yrs.) @ \$13,600.00 heavy equipment clearing / piling debris (100 hrs.) @ \$9,000.00 2 – aerial herbicide treatments (65 acres) @ \$1,950.00 site prep. for seeding lg island (65 acres) @ \$5,850.00 aerial seed application (65 acres) @ \$4,875.00 heavy equipment improving sm. islands / blinds (160 hrs.) @ \$14,400.00 heavy equipment improving access (roads, ramps, parking) (60 hrs.) @ \$5,400.00 Design, construction, placement of 5 interpretive signs @ \$2,000.00 “supplies” survey materials (optics, recorders, tapes, traps, etc.) @ \$2,000.00 nest structure materials (hardware, lumber, fill) @ \$1,275.00 wild rice seed (3,000 lbs.) @ \$6,000.00 fuel, equipment repairs and maintenance @ 5,000.00	\$82,320.00	\$24,765.89	\$27,578.18 ^a	-\$2,812.29 ^a
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$90,150.00	\$28,146.18	\$28,146.18^a	\$0.00

^a “Equipment” line-items savings (\$1,282.85) were used to help offset over-expenditures in “development” line-items. The remaining over-expenditures in “development” (\$1,529.44) were covered by Red Lake.