

2003 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2006

Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase II

Wildlife Area Management (2g)

- Area 1: Aspen Parklands
- Area 2: Mississippi Headwaters
- Area 3: Border Prairie
- Area 4: Central Lakes
- Area 5: Lower St. Louis River
- Area 6: Upper Minnesota River
- Area 7: Alexandria Moraine
- Area 8: Big Woods – North
- Area 9: Des Moines River Valley
- Area 10 Southern Lakes
- Area 11: Mississippi Bluff Lands

Project Manger: Dennis E. Simon

Affiliation: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife

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Web Page Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

FUND: Restoring MN Fish & Wildlife Habitat Corridors (ETF) 2003

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2003, Chap. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd.5a.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$49,650

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife implemented or provided oversight for infrastructure management and habitat restoration on lands acquired by partners to become State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) to ensure that DNR did not incur a significant short-term liability for initial site development. Wildlife staff coordinated with and provided technical guidance to partners in preparing initial site management and restoration plans and in implementing these plans on lands acquired in Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11. While the amount and type of work that would be accomplished was dependent on the acquisition success of partners, DNR estimated that 490 acres of habitat or facilities would be developed; the final total was 415 acres.

Infrastructure management was the primary need of the three new tracts acquired by partners in Project Areas 3, 7, and 10. This work included but was not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, public access, and parking lot and user facilities. Habitat restoration included but was not limited to grassland development or improvement. The work was accomplished by DNR staff, or through contracts with local vendors. The three new tracts covering over 415 acres acquired by partners now have cover, and are signed, posted, and open for public use.

Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files were developed as part of the management plans and incorporated into the Minnesota WMA system. This information is also available on the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This project was completed on June 30, 2006. Information on the new tracts is available on the DNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us, or by contacting the local Area Wildlife Manager.

Date of Report: August 3, 2006
LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2006

March 22, 2006

Approval was received on April 6, 2006 to move \$45,700 in unencumbered funds from this work program to 4a, Prairie Heritage Funds and Critical Lands Conservation Initiative. Development of new WMAs is contingent upon partners acquiring land in a timely manner. Because of delays in completing these acquisitions, we will be unable to complete the required development work by the existing project end date of June 30, 2006. During Habitat Corridors Partnership Phase III, work program 4a will move \$45,700 to work program 2g for development work.

LCMR Work Program 2003

I. PROJECT TITLE: (A-1) 13 - Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Corridors – Phase II

Wildlife Areas Management (2g)

- Area 1: Aspen Parklands
- Area 2: Mississippi Headwaters
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Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:

LCMR Appropriation:	\$49,650
Minus Amount Spent:	\$43,351
Equal Balance:	\$ 6,299

Legal Citation: ML 2003, Chap. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd.5a.

Appropriation Language:

\$4,850,000. Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors - Phase II \$2,425,000 the first year and \$2,425,000 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 National Wildlife Refuge 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. This 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. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS and III. PROGRESS SUMMARY:

The Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife implemented or provided oversight for infrastructure management and habitat restoration on lands acquired by partners to become State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) to ensure that DNR did not incur a significant short-term liability for initial site development. Wildlife staff coordinated with and provided technical guidance to partners in preparing initial site management and restoration plans and in implementing these plans on lands acquired in Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11. While the amount and type of work that would be accomplished was dependent on the acquisition success of partners, DNR estimated that 490 acres of habitat or facilities would be developed; the final total was 415 acres.

Infrastructure management was the primary need of the three new tracts acquired by partners in Project Areas 3, 7, and 10. This work included but was not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, public access, and parking lot and user facilities. Habitat restoration included but was not limited to grassland development or improvement. The work was accomplished by DNR staff, or through contracts with local vendors.

Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files were developed as part of the management plans and incorporated into the Minnesota WMA system. This information is also available on the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

August 3, 2006

Initial development work on the three sites has been completed. Most of this work was for facility development as two of the sites had some existing cover.

March 22, 2006

As of this date we have been notified of three parcels acquired by partners that will be turned over to DNR for development and management as WMAs. Initial Development Plans (IDPs) have been submitted and funds encumbered.

November 23, 2004

As of this date we are still using Phase I dollars and have not spent any Phase II funds.

September 10, 2004

As of this date we are still using Phase I dollars and have not spent any Phase II funds.

April 28, 2004

As of this date we are still using Phase I dollars and have not spent any Phase II funds.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Initial Site Development

Description: Conduct site reviews of all acquired lands and prepare digital boundary, habitat and facilities files for inclusion into the DNR WMA GIS. Coordinate with Partners and Area Wildlife Managers to prepare detailed initial restoration and management plans for each new WMA. Provide technical assistance to partners in implementing management plans and summarize accomplishments in Areas 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, & 11. The exact number of plans will vary depending on the success of each partner in acquiring lands. DNR staff will implement management and habitat practices as outlined in the management plans on an estimated 490 acres of land acquired by partners. Implementation will include the purchase and on the ground installation of facilities and habitat materials (e.g. seed, seedlings, water control structures, etc.) using contracts, labor and equipment provided by local partner chapters and/or DNR personnel and equipment. The exact quantities will be determined by the amount and type of land acquired by the partners.

March 22, 2006

We are requesting a work program amendment to move \$45,700 to 4a, Prairie Heritage Funds and Critical Lands Conservation Initiative. DNR will not be able to spend all of the funds originally allocated to this work program due to the lag time between acquisition and development of new WMAs. During Habitat Corridors

Partnership Phase III, work program 4a will move \$45,700 to work program 2g for development work.

September 9, 2004 Amendment

On September 19, 2004 a work program amendment was approved that redefined budget items to simplify reporting and make the activities included consistent with the state accounting system. This change also made the Phase II budget consistent with the budgets for Phases I and III.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

LCMR Budget:	\$49,650
Encumbered:	\$ 0
Liquid:	\$43,351
Balance:	\$ 6,299

Completion Date: June 30, 2006

Result 1 Status:

August 3, 2006

Project Area 3

Coyour WMA

The boundary survey and posting have been completed, and a parking lot with wood-routed sign has been constructed. Site prep and planting have been done on the 120-acre prairie restoration area.

Project Area 7

Westport WMA

The boundary survey and posting have been completed, and a parking lot constructed. The wood-routed sign has been received and will be installed just prior to the dedication ceremony this fall. A 60-acre existing grass planting on this 240-acre tract has been mowed once to set back weed and non-native species.

Project Area 10

Manthey WMA

The boundary survey and posting have been completed, and a parking lot constructed. An access trail has also been improved.

March 22, 2006

Three IDPs have been completed, and some grass seed needed for restoration on Grant Coyour WMA has been purchased.

November 23, 2004

No partner groups have contacted the DNR about Phase II acquisitions.

April 28, 2004

No partner groups have contacted the DNR about Phase II acquisitions.

Result Status as of: June 30, 2006

Final Report Summary: August 3, 2006

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
All Results: Personnel	2,040	2,040	0
All Results: Vehicle expenses	2,918	2,918	0
All Results: Development	44,692	38,393	6,299
TOTAL BUDGET	49,650	43,351	6,299

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending: Minnesota DNR Division of Wildlife spends approximately \$8.3 million annually for habitat restoration and management on Wildlife Management Areas. The Division of Wildlife was appropriated \$560,000 for Wildlife Area Management (2g) in the fiscal year 2001 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Corridors.

B. Current and Future Spending: It is anticipated that most initial management and habitat restoration costs will be born by this project. Some use of existing Game & Fish funded personnel and equipment may be necessary for efficient implementation of field projects and GIS data capture. Salaries and expenses for the DNR Division of Wildlife's Project Manager are funded by the Game & Fish fund.

Larger habitat restorations that go beyond the scope of initial improvements and long term habitat maintenance costs will be considered from DNR Game and Fish funds, General Funds, Heritage Enhancement and bonding sources.

C. Required Match: None

D. Future Spending: See VI. B. above

VII. Project Partners:

A. Partners Receiving LCMR Funds:

Susan Schmidt	Trust for Public Lands
Matt Holland	Pheasants Forever
Ron Nargang	The Nature Conservancy
Mark Johnson	MN Deer Hunters Association
Tom Glines	National Wild Turkey Federation
Ron Nargang	The Nature Conservancy
Jon Schneider	Ducks Unlimited
Dennis Simon	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

B. Project Cooperators: None

VIII. DISSEMINATION:

Wildlife Management Areas acquired and developed through this project will be open for public recreation and have appropriate signs erected acknowledging this project, the partners and funding sources. New WMAs acquired will be included in published maps of WMA locations. WMA boundaries and other appropriate information will be included on the DNR Web page.

IX. LOCATION:

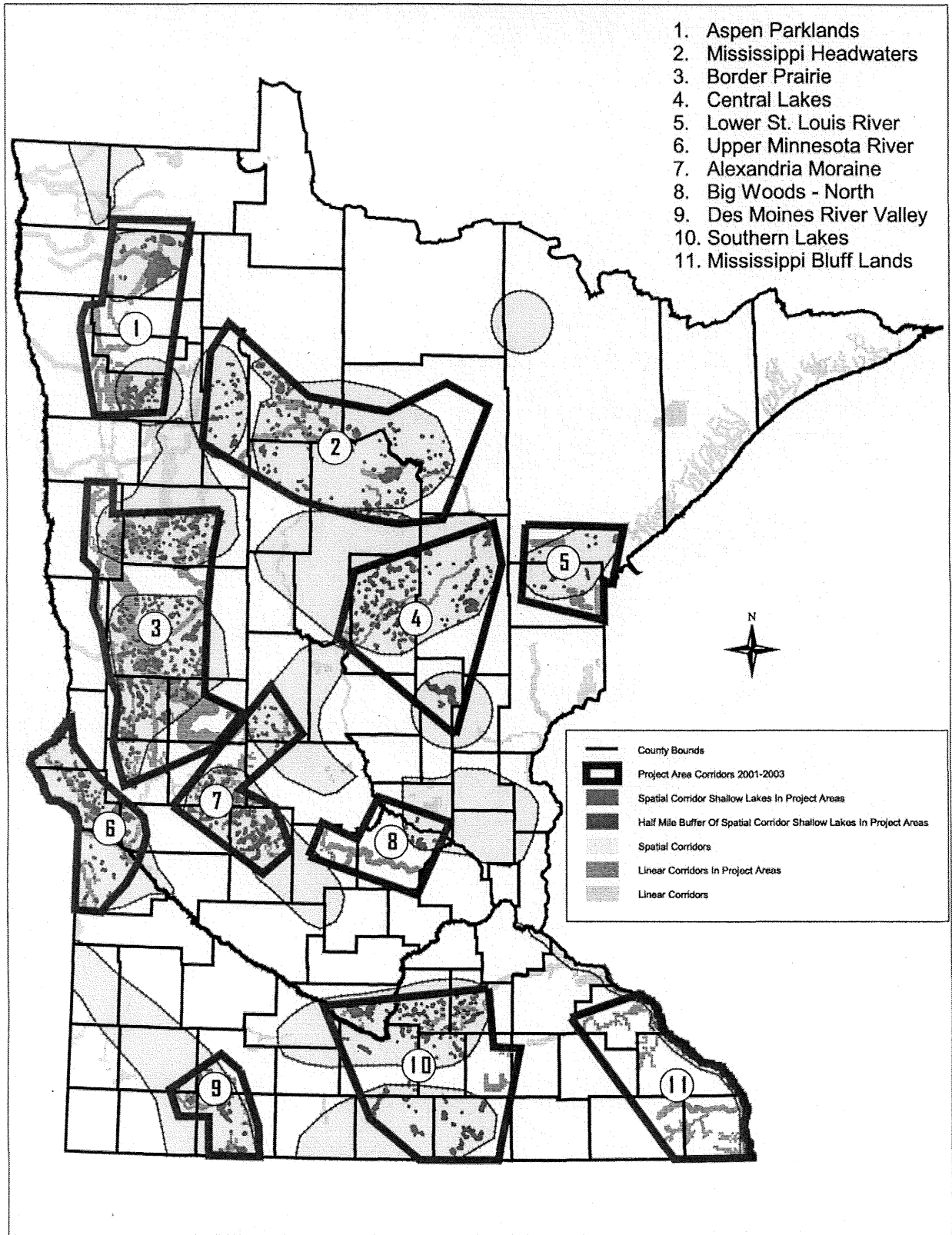
WMA lands managed under this project will be in Areas 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 on Figure 1.

X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted to LCMR not later than March 30, 2004; November 30, 2004; March 30, 2005; November 30, 2005 and March 30, 2006. A final work program report will be submitted by September 1, 2006.

XI. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Not applicable.

Figure 1.



Attachment A: Budget Detail for Phase II Projects**Proposal Title:** Wildlife Areas Management (2g)**Report Date:** August 3, 2006**Project Manager Name:** Dennis Simon**LCMR Requested Dollars:** \$49,650

REVISED BUDGET ITEM	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
Wages, salaries, and benefits	Temporary and seasonal staff	<u>2,040</u>	<u>2,040</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Professional technical contracts	Engineering vendors for boundary surveys on new acquisitions	\$27,285	<u>27,285</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Habitat development and restoration	Prairie, wetland, forest, and openland/brushland mangement, and woody cover development	<u>9,007</u>	<u>3,358</u>	<u>\$5,649</u>
Vehicle expenses	Fleet and equipment costs and fuel	<u>2,918</u>	<u>2,918</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Other land improvement	Boundary management, site/building cleanup/well sealing, user facility	\$8,400	<u>7,750</u>	<u>\$650</u>
COLUMN TOTAL		<u>49,650</u>	<u>43,351</u>	<u>\$6,299</u>

Specific descriptions of activities included in each Budget Item are included in the Glossary in Attachment E.

**Attachment B -- Habitat Corridors Partnership PHASE II -- Individual Work Program Summary
August 3, 2006 Progress Report for All Completed Activities thru 6/30/06**

Activity	Partner	LCMR Allocation	LCMR Expenditure	LCMR Balance	Proposed Accomplishments			Current LCMR Accomplishments			Other Funds Committed	Other Funds Expenditure	Other Funds Balance	Other Funds Acres	Other Funds Miles/ Shoreline	Other Funds Lakes Restored
					LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles/ Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored	LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles/ Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored						
2g. Wildlife Areas Management	MN DNR - Wildlife	\$ 49,650	\$ 43,351	\$ 6,299	490	0	0	415	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0

Attachment C -- Habitat Corridors Partnership PHASE II -- Individual Work Program Summary by Project Area

August 3, 2006 Progress Report for All Completed Activities thru 6/30/06

Work Program: Partner: MN DNR Wildlife	LCMR Funds						Other Funds					
	LCMR Dollars Expended	Acquisition Acres	Easement Acres	Restoration Acres	Shore Miles	Misc.	Other Funds Expended	Acquisition Acres	Easement Acres	Restoration Acres	Shore Miles	Misc.
PROJECT AREA 1												
Aspen Parklands												
PROJECT AREA 2												
Mississippi Headwaters												
PROJECT AREA 3												
Border Prairie												
Coyour WMA	\$22,276			120								
PROJECT AREA 4												
Central Lakes												
PROJECT AREA 5												
Lower St. Louis River												
PROJECT AREA 6												
Upper Minnesota River												
PROJECT AREA 7												
Alexandria Moraine												
Westport WMA	\$11,161			240								
PROJECT AREA 8												
Big Woods - North												
PROJECT AREA 9												
Des Moines River Valley												
PROJECT AREA 10												
Southern Lakes												
Manthey WMA	\$9,914			55								
PROJECT AREA 11												
Mississippi Bluff Lands												

\$43,351

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