

FINAL REPORT

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2003 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2006

TITLE: Minnesota Wildlife Corridors Phase II – TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program (4c)

PROJECT MANAGER: Susan Schmidt, Minnesota State Office Director

ORGANIZATION: The Trust for Public Land

ADDRESS: 2610 University Ave, Suite 300, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.tpl.org

FUND: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$328,030

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Trust for Public Land's Critical Lands Protection Program worked in depth with one large landowner to acquire a valuable, high quality habitat linkages resulting in achievement of our overall program goal of creating meaningful habitat corridors in the Central Lakes project area (#4). TPL protected the number of habitat acres anticipated.

In the Central Lakes project area, a total of 149 acres and 1 mile of natural shoreline was protected with a protective conservation easement on a privately-owned parcel of approximately 900 acres of mostly natural land located next to a Crow Wing County Memorial Forest on Clearwater Lake in Crow Wing County. The land will be managed as a DNR aquatic management area. It is very important to point out that this land would most likely have been developed for residential use given the acute financial pressures faced by the Clearwater Forest Church Camp. Conservation of the land via sale of a conservation easement -- rather than development -- became a viable option for the Camp because of the Habitat Corridors Partnership (HCP) program.

TPL's prorated portion of the protection work using \$328,030 in Phase II Trust Fund dollars, \$100,000 in TNC's Phase I Trust Fund dollars, \$199,072 in DNR Fisheries Phase II Trust Fund dollars, and leveraging \$604,000 in *private and other state (non Trust Fund) dollars*. This TPL **Clearwater Forest** project -- important as a small mouth bass fishery and as headwaters to the Nokasippi River in the fast developing Brainerd Lakes region -- connected 1350 acres of public and private habitat overall.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Habitat Corridors Partnership (HCP) uses individual project results such as Clearwater Forest to guide its overall partnership goals and objectives for the future. The HCP summarizes cumulative project results in written fact sheets for dissemination. TPL, as one HCP project partner, posts HCP project summaries on the TPL website (www.TPL.org - Minnesota State Office link) and as part of TPL Minnesota's semi-annual newsletter. **Clearwater Forest** has a sign posted by DNR recognizing LCMR funding.

March 22, 2005

LCMR Final Work Program Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Wildlife Corridors Phase II – TPL’s Critical Lands Protection Program (4c)

Project Manager: Susan Schmidt
Affiliation: The Trust for Public Land
Minnesota State Office Director
Mailing Address: 2610 University Ave, Suite 300
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

Telephone Number: 651-999-5317 **E-Mail:** Susan.Schmidt@tpl.org **Fax:** 651-917-2248

Web Page address: www.tpl.org

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$ 328,030
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 328,030
	Equal Balance:	\$ 0

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

Appropriation Language:

ML 2003, Chap.128, Article 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 5(a) \$4,850,000 (Env. Trust Fund). 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 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

Trust for Public Land's Critical Lands Protection Program worked in depth with one large landowner to acquire a valuable, high quality habitat linkages resulting in achievement of our overall program goal of creating meaningful habitat corridors in the Central Lakes project area (#4). TPL protected the number of habitat acres anticipated.

In the Central Lakes project area, a total of 149 acres and 1 mile of natural shoreline was protected with a protective conservation easement on a privately-owned parcel of approximately 900 acres of mostly natural land located next to a Crow Wing County Memorial Forest on Clearwater Lake in Crow Wing County. The land will be managed as a DNR aquatic management area. It is very important to point out that this land would most likely have been developed for residential use given the acute financial pressures faced by the Clearwater Forest Church Camp. Conservation of the land via sale of a conservation easement -- rather than development -- became a viable option for the Camp because of the Habitat Corridors Partnership (HCP) program.

TPL's prorated portion of the protection work using \$328,030 in Phase II Trust Fund dollars, \$100,000 in TNC's Phase I Trust Fund dollars, \$199,072 in DNR Fisheries Phase II Trust Fund dollars, and leveraging \$604,000 in *private and other state (non Trust Fund) dollars*. This TPL **Clearwater Forest** project -- important as a small mouth bass fishery and as headwaters to the Nokasippi River in the fast developing Brainerd Lakes region -- connected 1350 acres of public and private habitat overall.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result #1: Project Area #4 (Central Lakes):

TPL purchased a protective conservation easement on 149 acres and one mile of natural shoreline on the privately-held Clearwater Forest land on Clearwater Lake in Crow Wing County. The land will be managed as a DNR aquatic management area. It is very important to point out that this land would most likely have been developed for residential use given the acute financial pressures faced by the Clearwater Forest Church Camp. Conservation of the land via sale of a conservation easement -- rather than development -- became a viable option for the Camp because of the HCP program. This Clearwater Forestland is an important small mouth bass fishery at the headwaters of the Nokasippi River in the fast developing Brainerd Lakes region. *TPL is providing the following breakdown of dollars, acres, shoreline and other funds for LCMR reporting purposes only. TPL would otherwise not present land conservation results in this manner because land valuation is based on an appraisal rather than a formula.*

Clearwater Forest, Crow Wing County: TPL's Conservation Easement Purchase

Fund Source	Fund Amount	% for LCMR reporting ONLY	Acres / Shoreland protected for LCMR reporting ONLY	Adjacent acres
TPL's Phase I Trust Fund dollars	\$322,898	20.8%	31 acres with .21 miles of shoreline	
TPL's Phase II Trust Fund dollars	\$328,030	21.2%	32 acres with .21 miles of shoreline	
TNC's Phase I Trust Fund dollars	\$100,000	6%	9 acres with .06 miles of shoreline	
DNR Fisheries Phase II Trust Fund dollars	\$199,072	13%	19 acres with .13 miles of shoreline	
DNR Fisheries Game and Fish	\$200,000	13%	20 acres with .13 miles of shoreline	
RIM CHM	\$202,000	13%	19 acres with .13 miles of shoreline	
Landowner donation	\$202,000	13%	19 acres with .13 miles of shoreline	
TOTAL value*	\$1,554,000	100%	149 acres / approx. 1 mile shoreline	See note below *

* This 149 acre land protection project results in a protected public / private habitat corridor within Project Area #4 of 1350 acres. This includes the 300 acre Crow Wing County Memorial Forest to the west, a 5 acre DNR public water access immediately adjacent on the north and 900 adjacent acres to the east and south owned by Clearwater Forest as a nature based outdoor camp with only a small footprint for camp buildings. Clearwater Forest might consider additional protection of these contiguous acres in the future.

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET (SEE ATTACHMENT A)

All Results: Personnel: NA
 All Results: Equipment: NA
 All Results: Development: NA
 All Results: Acquisition: \$328,030
 All Results: Other: NA

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$328,030

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

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

TPL's land acquisition component of the Minnesota Habitat Corridors Partnership - the Critical Lands Protection Program - spent \$900,000 as budgeted in Phase I and \$328,030 as budgeted in Phase II. TPL has successfully leveraged \$573,000 in other non-state funds and \$1,344,957 in other state funds for this habitat connection work over the two-phase time period.

B. Current Spending:

TPL's acquisition component of Minnesota Habitat Corridors Partnership Phase II / 2003-2004 - TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program - spent the Phase II budgeted / allocated amount of \$328,030. TPL successfully leveraged \$701,072 in other non - state funds for protection of this land and \$202,000 in the landowner's land value donation. TPL seeks no LCMR reimbursement for the substantial staff, legal, professional services, phone, travel and office expenses associated with this land transaction nor any staff and accounting costs associated with Minnesota Habitat Corridors Partnership Phase II partnership work. These costs are all covered by TPL.

C. Required Match (if applicable) NA

D. Future Spending:

The Minnesota Habitat Corridors Partnership intends to approach LCMR for funding for each of the next 8 biennium, for a total of 10 phases or 20 years. The Minnesota Habitat Corridors Partnership will likely request funding in the range of \$20 million / biennium. The partnership expects to secure twice as much in other funds as a result of this habitat protection partnership.

VII. Project Partners:

A. Partners Receiving LCMR Funds:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MN DNR Division of Forestry, MN DNR Division Wildlife, MN DNR Division Fisheries, MN DNR Division Forestry, MN DNR Division Ecological Services, Red Lake band of Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, MN Deer Hunter's Association, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Land Trust, Board of Water and Soil Resources.

B. Project Cooperators:

TPL will partner as part of any individual land acquisition project with landowners, local government and other interested agency and nonprofit partners.

VIII. Dissemination

The Habitat Corridors Partnership (HCP) uses individual project results such as Clearwater Forest to guide its overall partnership goals and objectives for the future. The HCP summarizes cumulative project results in written fact sheets for dissemination. TPL, as one HCP project partner, posts HCP project results on the TPL website (www.TPL.org) and as part of TPL Minnesota's semi-annual newsletter. **Clearwater Forest** has a sign posted by DNR recognizing LCMR funding.

IX. Context

TPL has protected over 27,572 acres of land valued at \$43.4 million in Minnesota. TPL Minnesota expects to work with many landowners and partners to continue this level of conservation success in the future using these Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars and other federal, state, local and private funds.

This is the second of a 10 phase, 20 year-long Habitat Corridor Partnership (HCP) program. The HCP program is committed to leveraging new, additional dollars (\$3 to \$4 other dollars for every LCMR dollar

spent) as a result of this coordinated effort to establish a more effective, healthier habitat network for the state as a whole. HCP is intended to accelerate the protection of these key, remaining habitat linkages which is substantially above and beyond what can be conserved with "traditional" bonding and / or LCMR funds.

X. Cooperation

TPL worked very closely with DNR Wildlife, TNC, USFWS, DNR Fisheries, and Clearwater Forest Church Camp, Crow Wing County Board and several township boards, numerous citizen and hunting groups including the Brainerd Lakes Area conservation Collaborative (BLACC) and others on this HCP conservation project.

TPL assists the overall HCP as a member of the partnership steering committee and as an active participant in various HCP committees. TPL has assisted the HCP with outreach meetings and outreach tools so that more landowners, more local conservation leaders and, ultimately more Minnesotans, benefit and shape HCP goals and objectives. Habitat Corridors partners include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various divisions of MN DNR, 3 Native American Tribes, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, MN Deer Hunter's Association, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley Trust Inc., and the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

XI. Location

Project area #4

ATTACHMENT A

Project Title: Minnesota Wildlife Corridors Phase II - TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program (4c)

Project Number: TPL's Critical Lands Protection - The Trust for Public Land (4c)

LCMR Funding: \$328,030

Attachment A Deliverable Products and Related Budget - LCMR Funds Only

2003 LCMR Project Biennial Budget	Objective/ Result	
	Result 1 Spent	TOTAL SPENT:
Budget Item		
Land acquisition	328,030.00	328,030.00
Personnel		
"Other" Costs		
Transaction costs(1)		
DNR Acquisition Costs(2)		
Travel Costs		
COLUMN TOTAL	328,030.00	328,030.00

18-Feb-05