

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase IV – Scientific & Natural Areas (3a) - (2.5 & 3.6)
PROJECT MANAGER: Margaret (Peggy) Booth
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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a) 2.5 & 3.6

Appropriation Language:

\$3,150,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fourth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,915,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,235,000 is for agreements as follows: \$475,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$92,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$111,000 with Great River Greening; \$225,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$107,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. 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.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$358,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

A new state Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) unit was acquired and designated as part of the State Outdoor Recreation System and almost 270 acres of restoration and enhancement activities were completed on existing SNAs. Specifically, a 47.9 acre parcel (including funding through the federal State Wildlife Grant, 34.58 acres pro-rated to this appropriation) in southeast Isanti County was acquired and designated as the new Twin Lakes SNA. It features white pine-hardwood forest of high biodiversity significance and 1450' of Horseshoe Lake shoreline and provided habitat for state threatened Blandings turtles and for state special concern red-shouldered hawks. Restoration and enhancement activities (prescribed burning and invasives treatment) were completed on 266.7 acres, plus .4 miles of deer enclosure fencing was reconstructed – resulting in native habitat enhancement at 11 SNAs in 6 counties within the Metro Conservation Corridors.

Trust Fund 2008 Work Program and Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: January 26, 2011
Date of Next Status Report: February 1, 2011
M.L. 2008 **M.L. 2009**
Date of Work program Approval: June 10, 2008 June 16, 2009
Project Completion Date: June, 30 2010 June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: **Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase IV – Scientific & Natural Areas (3a) - (2.5 & 3.6) [M.L. 2008]**
 Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V: Scientific and Natural Area Restoration and Acquisition (4f) – (2.7 & 3.6) [M.L. 2009]

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Location: Current and proposed Scientific and Natural Areas within mapped Focus Area in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington and Wright. See Figure 1

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$358,000	\$410,000	\$768,000
		<u>\$610,000</u>	<u>\$968,000</u>
Minus Amount Spent:	\$358,000	\$395,223	\$423,951
Equal Balance:	\$0	<u>\$215,252</u>	<u>\$215,252</u>

Legal Citation:
M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a) 2.5 & 3.6
Appropriation Language:

\$3,150,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fourth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,915,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,235,000 is for agreements as follows: \$475,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$92,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$111,000 with Great River Greening; \$225,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$107,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land

acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. 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.

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(f) 2.7 & 3.6

Appropriation Language:

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fifth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$2,185,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,190,000 is for agreements as follows: \$380,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$90,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$155,000 with Great River Greening; \$250,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$90,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. 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. To the maximum extent practical, consistent with contractual easement or fee acquisition obligations, the recipients shall utilize staff resources to identify future projects and shall maximize the implementation of biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

M.L. 2008

About 47 acres of priority native habitat will be acquired as Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), and 20 acres of SNA native communities will be restored/enhanced within the Metro Corridors.

M.L. 2009

This project would protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state as state Scientific and Natural Area those natural features that possess exceptional scientific or education value. Specifically, at least 120 acres of SNAs in the Metro mapped corridors that are threatened or degraded by human impacts, invasives, and/or lack of natural disturbance regimes would be restored or enhanced, or development improvements made for safety or management purposes or to meet minimum standards. Also, about 30 acres of high quality native plant communities, rare plants

and animals and other natural features of statewide importance within the Metro Conservation Corridors mapped corridors would be acquired and designated as state Scientific and Natural Area.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2011:

M.L. 2009

The 68.49 acre addition to Savage Fen SNA closed in late November 2010 (pro-rated 6.2 acres with this appropriation. Restoration and enhancement activities were completed 4 sites. Work is in progress on new adaptive management plans for Grey Cloud Dunes, Hastings Sand Coulee, and other SNAs (paid all or in part through this appropriation). The 68.49 acre addition to Savage Fen SNA closed in late November 2010 (pro-rated 6.2 acres with this appropriation – see Attachment B for revised breakdown of sources and amount of landowner payments and donation).

Work Program Amendment Request: to move \$200K from Metro Greenways to SNA for purposes of acquiring an addition to the Hastings Sand Coulee or Seminary Fen SNA.

M.L. 2008 – FINAL ABSTRACT

A new state Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) unit was acquired and designated as part of the State Outdoor Recreation System and almost 270 acres of restoration and enhancement activities were completed on existing SNAs. Specifically, a 47.9 acre parcel (including funding through the federal State Wildlife Grant, 34.58 acres pro-rated to this appropriation) in southeast Isanti County was acquired and designated as the new Twin Lakes SNA. It features white pine-hardwood forest of high biodiversity significance and 1450' of Horseshoe Lake shoreline and provided habitat for state threatened Blandings turtles and for state special concern red-shouldered hawks. Restoration and enhancement activities (prescribed burning and invasives treatment) were completed on 266.7 acres, plus .4 miles of deer enclosure fencing was reconstructed – resulting in native habitat enhancement at 11 SNAs in 6 counties within the Metro Conservation Corridors.

PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF AUGUST 1, 2010:

M.L. 2008

Result 1 previously completed: restoration and enhancement activities (prescribed burning and invasives treatment) were completed on 266.7 acres, plus .4 miles of deer enclosure fencing was reconstructed – resulting in native habitat enhancement at 11 SNAs in 6 counties. Acquisition of the 47.9 acre parcel (34.58 acres prorated to this appropriation) featuring white pine-hardwood forest of high biodiversity significance and 1450' of Horseshoe Lake shoreline in southeast Isanti County using a combination of this appropriation and federal funds closed and was designated as the Twin Lakes SNA on June 28-29, 2010. The offer made in February and a subsequent counter-offer on the other 63-acre parcel at Twin Lakes were rejected by the landowner in May 2010. The remaining \$157,000 was then earmarked for acquisition of a ~70-acre addition to Savage Fen SNA underway in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land which has a purchase agreement with the landowner. The SNA program hoped to have by June 2010 a binding agreement with TPL for DNR to acquire the Savage Fen addition, but that project was delayed due to a series of

requests by the county affecting the legal description as well as required changes to the appraisal discovered during the DNR appraisal review process. Thus, the SNA program asked on June 24th to transfer \$157,000 to the Division of Fisheries for one of their Metro Corridors projects. Work program amendment approved June 24, 2010.

M.L. 2009

Restoration and enhancement projects totaling 86 acres have been done at 14 sites with accomplishments including 53 acres of prescribed burns completed, 18 acres of woody invasives removed plus another 16 acres of herbaceous invasives treated. An offer was made in February 2010, but not yet accepted by the landowner to acquire a 12.6-acre addition to the Seminary Fen SNA which includes the best quality calcareous fen in the Seminary Fen complex. This 2009 appropriation will be used toward the Savage Fen acquisition (in addition to SNA 2006 bonding and partner-secured funds) and the Seminary Fen addition will be moved to acquisition through the 2010 LCCMR appropriation to the SNA program.

PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 8, 2009:

M.L. 2008

Result 1 completed: restoration and enhancement activities (prescribed burning and invasives treatment) were completed on 266.7 acres, plus .4 miles of deer enclosure fencing was reconstructed – resulting in native habitat enhancement at 11 SNAs in 6 counties. A pair of sites in southeast Isanti County totaling about 115 acres (using a combination of this appropriation, the 2009 appropriation, and federal funding) are being acquired which would protect tamarack, mixed hardwood swamp and white pine-hardwood forest with high-outstanding biodiversity significance through creation of the new Twin Lakes SNA. Some of this funding may also contribute towards a bigger funding package for acquisition an addition to Pine Bend Bluffs SNA of up to 71 acres including Mississippi River frontage.

M.L. 2009

Restoration and enhancement work was initiated at 7 sites with accomplishments including 14 acres of invasives treatment and over 1 mile of burn breaks completed. In addition to partially funding the 2 Twin Lakes sites noted above, acquisition is underway for an addition to the Seminary Fen SNA of up to 21 acres which includes the best quality calcareous fen in the Seminary Fen complex.

PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2009:

M.L. 2008

Result 1 previously completed: restoration and enhancement activities (prescribed burning and invasives treatment) were completed on 266.7 acres, plus .4 miles of deer enclosure fencing was reconstructed – resulting in native habitat enhancement at 11 SNAs in 6 counties. Offers have been made on a pair of sites in southeast Isanti County totaling about 112 acres (using a combination of this appropriation, the 2009 appropriation, and federal funding) which would protect tamarack, mixed hardwood swamp and white pine-hardwood forest with high-outstanding biodiversity significance through creation of the new Twin Lakes SNA.

M.L. 2009

Restoration and enhancement work was initiated at 9 sites with accomplishments including 14 acres of invasives treatment and over 1 mile of burn breaks completed. In addition to partially funding one of the Twin Lakes sites noted above, an offer has been made to acquire a 12.6-acre addition to the Seminary Fen SNA which includes the best quality calcareous fen in the Seminary Fen complex.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: SNA Restoration & Enhancement

Description: The SNA Program and partners will restore and enhance native habitat on approximately 50 acres (20 acres with M.L. 2008 funding and 30 acres with M.L. 2009 funding; partner acres and other funding not counted here). Any planting will use seeds or plant stock of local ecotype collected within about 20 miles of the restoration. This work will directly contribute towards achievement of restoration of degraded and rare land features (particularly native prairie, savanna, and forest) needed to support Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and thereby helps achieve Habitat Recommendation 5 of the SCPP.

Under the 2008 appropriation, work will be targeted to projects on SNAs with critical habitat restoration needs, such as:

- fen restoration (e.g. woody encroachment removal/treatment and prescribed burning) at proposed Seminary Fen SNA (Carver Co), Black Dog Preserve SNA (Dakota Co) and/or Savage Fen SNA (Scott Co);
- prairie and savanna restoration (e.g. woody encroachment removal/treatment and prescribed burning, seed collection, and/or planting) at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA and Lost Valley Prairie (Washington Co), Rice Lake Savanna SNA (Sherburne Co), River Prairie Terrace SNA, Spring Creek Prairie SNA, and Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA (Goodhue Co); and/or Pine Bend Bluffs SNA and Hastings Sand Coulee SNA (Dakota County); and
- white pine-hard forest restoration (e.g. deer exclosure construction, seed collection, and/or propagation) at Boot Lake SNA (Anoka Co) and/or Falls Creek SNA (Washington Co).

Additional site development and habitat restoration work may be done at SNAs, e.g. Wolsfeld Woods, Wood-Rill, Mary Schmidt Crawford Woods, Clear Lake, Chamberlain Woods, Uncas Dunes, Harry W Cater Homestead Prairie, and those listed above.

Under the 2009 appropriation, all SNAs within the mapped Metro Corridors are candidates for restoration, enhancement, and development work, with the highest priority sites (to date) listed in Table 1 (corrected version submitted 6/2/09) and highlighted in Figure 1.

Activities for restoration, development, and native habitat enhancement purposes and to bring sites acquired up to minimum standards will be carried out by SNA program or other Department crews, Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC), Sentence to Service personnel, volunteers, and/or contractors. This includes

activities, such as seed collection, site preparation, planting, establishment period maintenance, removal and treatment of exotics, control of woody encroachment, site clean-up, signing, deer exclosures and other fencing, prescribed burns, and updating of management plans or completion of new adaptive management plans for targeted sites. Opportunities will be cultivated to complete cooperative projects with other MeCC partners with results reported for all non-duplicated acres with activities accomplished through these funds (e.g. acres of exotics removed or treated, miles of burn breaks installed or acres of prescribed burns, acres of seed harvest, acres planted, etc. All restoration will use seeds or plants of a local ecotype, collected whenever possible from onsite or within 25 miles.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$61,335	\$60,000	\$121,335
Amount Spent:	\$61,335	\$44,748	\$106,083
Balance:	\$0	\$15,252	\$15,252

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
1. M.L. 2008: 20 acres restoration activities (includes restoration/reconstruction, invasives species control & woody encroachment removal, prescribed burning, and site development)	June 30, 2009	\$61,335
2. M.L. 2009: ~10 acres restoration/reconstruction	June 30, 2011	\$11,000
3. M.L. 2009: ~20 acres invasive species control & woody encroachment removal	June 30, 2011	\$12,000
4. M.L. 2009: ~120 acres prescribed burning	June 30, 2011	\$18,000
5. M.L. 2009: site development at ~ 4 SNAs	June 30, 2011	\$7,000
6. M.L. 2009: ~ 2 management plan (updates or new)	March 1, 2011	\$11,000

Completion Date: M.L. 2008: June 30, 2009; M.L. 2009: June 30, 2011

Result Status as of February 1, 2009: To date, a total of 9.5 acres of restoration and enhancement activities have been completed including: 4.5 acres of fen restoration at Seminary Fen SNA; 4.5 acres of prairie and savanna restoration (woody encroachment removal) at 5 SNAs in 3 counties (River Terrace Prairie, Spring Creek Prairie, Uncas Dunes, Grey Cloud Dunes, and St. Croix Savanna); 0.5 acres of woodland restoration (buckthorn removal) at Wood-Rill SNA; as well as preparation for spring prescribed burns (including mowing 2 miles of burn breaks) at 8 SNAs. (See Table 1 for a specific list of sites and activities to date.)

Result Status as of December 8, 2009: Result 1 (restoration and enhancement work) under the 2008 funding was completed with improvements to 266 acres. Accomplishments include 17.8 acres of woody encroachment-invasives removal at 6

sites; 213.5 acres of prescribed burns at 5 sites; 35 acres of herbaceous exotics treatment at 3 sites; and reconstructing .4 miles of deer exclosure fencing at 1 site. In addition, 9.4 miles of burn breaks were completed and other prescribed burn preparation done at 3 sites that were not able to be burned in spring 2009. (See list of accomplishments by site in Table 1a).

Restoration and enhancement work was initiated through 2009 funding at 7 sites with accomplishments including 14 acres of herbaceous exotics treatment and over 1 mile of burn breaks completed. (See list of accomplishments by site in Table 1b).

Result Status as of February 1, 2010: To date with the 2009 funding, in total restoration and enhancement work was initiated at 9 sites with accomplishments including 14 acres of herbaceous exotics treatment and over 1 mile of burn breaks completed. (See list of accomplishments by site in Table 1b).

M.L. 2008 Final Report Summary: Restoration and enhancement activities (prescribed burning and invasives treatment) were completed on 266.7 acres, plus .4 miles of deer exclosure fencing was reconstructed – resulting in native habitat enhancement at 11 SNAs in 6 counties – see Table 1b.

Result Status as of August 1, 2010: In FY10 (through June 2010), restoration and enhancement activities were completed on 86 acres at 14 sites. This includes invasive species control projects on 34 acres (18 acres of woody encroachment removal and another 16 acres of herbaceous – including 2 acres completed by MCC crews) at 9 sites and installation of signs along 1 mile of perimeter at the new addition to Lost Valley Prairie SNA. The work necessary before doing prescribed burning was done for burn units at 12 SNAs (e.g. installation of 9 miles of burn breaks, preparation of burn plans for 12 SNAs, coordination with local authorities, etc). However, the weather in spring 2010 was so uncharacteristic and difficult for burning (including burn bans that precluded doing burns at all 5 Anoka and Sherburne County SNAs planned and northern fire danger resulting redeployment of MCC that was to do Metro SNA burns) that only 53 acres of burns at 5 sites were completed. For example, significant work went into preparing to do the first DNR prescribed burns at Seminary Fen and a 6+ person crew and equipment were deployed to the site twice because of favorable weather forecasts, but actual conditions didn't allow any acres to burn.

Result Status as of February 1, 2011: For the remainder of calendar year 2010, restoration and enhancement activities were completed 4 sites – including .85 miles of fence repair at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA to prevent ATV trespass and damage to the dune landscape; and parking lot and site clean-up activities were completed at 3 sites. Work is in progress on new adaptive management plans for Grey Cloud Dunes, Hastings Sand Coulee, and other SNAs (paid all or in part through this appropriation). The remaining funds for this result are primary targeted at prescribed burns and restoration seeding in spring 2011 and completion of management plans.

M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary:

Result 2: SNA Acquisition

Description: Through the M.L. 2008 appropriation, the SNA program will acquire and designate as SNA approximately 47 acres (and leverage about 13 acres of acquisition through partner funds – totaling about 60 acres protected) of high priority habitat, i.e. shoreland, riparian land, and other lands critical to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan and protect water quality and rare features.

Through the M.L. 2009 appropriation, about 30 acres of high quality native habitat within the Metro Corridors mapped corridors will be acquired and designated as Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). This will protect rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, and geological features, and provide for their public use for scientific study, education, and nature observation.

Very high priority parcels within sites of biodiversity significance will be targeted for protection that have been identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey, approved as qualifying as SNA by the Commissioners Advisory Committee, are critical to meeting the SNA Long Range Plan, and which help fulfill Habitat Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP). Project sites are selected using two sets of criteria a) importance of site for protecting the rare features (e.g. its rareness on national or state scale; its quality and genetic diversity; degree of threat; and protection status in subsection) and b) practical considerations (e.g. feasibility of managing site; landowner willingness; funding for protection and management; and use for research and education).

Through the M.L. 2008 and 09 funding, all or part of about 2-5 sites would be protected at estimated costs of \$5,000 to \$15,000/acre depending on appraised land values in the location(s) being acquired. These funds would be targeted at sites that will not be protected through currently available ENRTF and bonding funds within the Metro Conservation Corridors mapped corridors – particularly sites with opportunities for collaboration with other MeCC partners. Specifically, to date the sites have been identified as conservation priorities for potential acquisition under this grant are listed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 1.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$296,665	\$350,000	\$803,665
		<u>\$550,000</u>	<u>\$846,665</u>
Amount Spent:	\$296,665	<u>\$350,000</u>	<u>\$646,665</u>
Balance:	\$0	<u>\$200,000</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. M.L. 2008: 34.6 acres acquired & designated SNA <i>Note: \$ reduced to 65% original & acres reduced to 72% original as per work program amendment</i>	June 30, 2009	\$296,665

2. M.L. 2009: 6.7 <u>36</u> acres acquired & designated SNA	June 30, 2011	\$350,000 \$550,000
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Completion Date: M.L. 2008: June 30, 2009; M.L. 2009: June 30, 2011

Result Status as of February 1, 2009: Acquisition is underway (with help of the Friends of the Mississippi River) of a 35-70 acre addition to the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA whose features include native forest mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey and Mississippi River frontage and which lies between two existing portions of the SNA. Various scenarios are being appraised in order to reach the best agreement with the current landowners. The proposed acquisition funding includes non-state funds from the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program as well as state Metro Greenways bonding. The project is expected to close in June 2009.

Result Status as of December 8, 2009: Acquisition is underway on three new projects. An addition to the Seminary Fen SNA of up to 21 acres is in appraisal review which includes the best quality calcareous fen in the Seminary Fen complex. A pair of sites totaling about 115 acres in the Twin Lakes area of Isanti County are in the appraisal review (with proposed funding to include federal State Wildlife Grant funds). The approximately 70-acre tract is mainly composed of tamarack and mixed hardwood swamp plant communities with outstanding biodiversity significance. The approximately 45-acre tract is mostly composed of White Pine-Hardwood Forest with high biodiversity significance. These sites would become the new Twin Lakes SNA which is part of a 1340-acre macrosite in southeastern Isanti County proposed by the state's Natural Heritage Program for land protection and conservation. Work on the previously referenced addition to Pine Bend Bluffs SNA is continuing (an offer was made to the landowner who has not yet decided), but that site, if acquired, will be primarily with bonding funds, supplemented as needed with ENRTF. (See Table 2.)

Result Status as of February 1, 2010: By early February 2010, offers will have been made on the two Twin Lakes and one Seminary Fen projects listed above. The acreages of these offers are a 67 acre and 45 acre tract at Twin Lakes and 12.6 acres (encompassing all of the fen, but not the buffer lands) at Seminary Fen. These projects could utilize all the remaining acquisition funds in these appropriations plus the federal funds noted above. Any funds not needed for these projects would be used towards the Pine Bend Bluffs, Hastings Sand Coulee, or Savage Fen project listed on Table 2.

M.L. 2008 Final Report Summary The final outcome of Result 2 (2008 appropriation) is acquisition of a 47.9 acre parcel (34.58 acres pro-rated to this 2008 appropriation – including all transaction and staff costs spent paid for with this 2008 appropriation for all acquisition projects pursued under this appropriation). Specifically, acquisition of the 47.9 acre parcel featuring white pine-hardwood forest of high biodiversity significance and 1450' of Horseshoe Lake shoreline in southeast Isanti County closed and was designated as the Twin Lakes SNA on June 28-29,

2010. In addition to monies through this 2008 appropriation, \$114,250 of federal State Wildlife Grant funds contributed to the landowner payment for the Twin Lakes site.

The remainder of this 2008 appropriation (plus some funds from this 2009 appropriation) were allocated to a second 63-acre Twin Lakes acquisition. The offer made in February and a subsequent counter-offer were rejected by the landowner in May 2010.

Amendment Approved June 24, 2010:

The remaining \$157,000 was then earmarked for acquisition of a ~70-acre addition to Savage Fen SNA underway in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land which has a purchase agreement with the landowner. This site includes MCBS mapped wetland communities which are integrally part of the calcareous fen complex, MCBS mapped hardwood forest bluffs above the fen complex, and frontage on the Credit River. TPL submitted its appraisal for this project to the DNR for review in January 2010. The SNA program hoped to have by June 2010 a binding agreement with TPL for DNR to acquire the Savage Fen addition. The Savage City Council passed a resolution for the acquisition and designation of the site as SNA on June 7, 2010. But, final appraisal certification was delayed due to a series of requests by the county affecting the legal description and because the appraisal (as submitted) was rejected by the DNR-hired appraisal reviewer due to its assumptions on the level of development that the city would allow. The landowner, TPL, and the DNR are working on several strategies to achieve a DNR certified appraisal within the next few months. Because the Savage Fen project will not have a binding contract on this project by June 30, 2010, the SNA program asked on June 24, 2010 for a work program amendment to transfer \$157,000 to the Division of Fisheries for one of their Metro Corridors projects; LCCMR staff indicated preliminary approval of this work program amendment pending these revisions to the work program.

Result Status as of August 1, 2010: The landowner, TPL, and the DNR are continuing to work on several strategies to achieve a DNR certified appraisal within the next few months. Requests of the county have also been addressed which will result in the county/city receiving prior to state acquisition 6.38 acres of the site for road right-of-way and drainage pond. With these conditions, county board approval was received on August 3, 2010. As a result, 68.89 acres is expected to be acquired and designated as SNA. An amended Savage Fen SNA addition timeline to date and proposed budget are in Attachment B1 and B2.

An offer was made in February 2010, but not yet accepted by the landowner to acquire a 12.6-acre addition to the Seminary Fen SNA which includes the best quality calcareous fen in the Seminary Fen complex. Because of this delay and reallocation of 2008 funds to Fisheries, all the remaining 2009 appropriation will be used toward the Savage Fen acquisition (in addition to SNA 2006 bonding, a smaller amount of the ENRTF 2010 SNA appropriation, and partner-secured funds) and the Seminary Fen addition will be moved to acquisition through the 2010 LCCMR appropriation to the SNA program (although all transaction costs to date were previously charged to the 2009 appropriation).

Result Status as of February 1, 2011: The 68.49 acre addition to Savage Fen SNA closed in late November 2010 (pro-rated 6.2 acres with this appropriation – see Attachment B for revised breakdown of sources and amount of landowner payments and donation).

Work Program Amendment Request – January xx, 2011: Pending approval, \$200,000 will be reallocated from the Metro Greenways funding within the same appropriation to SNA acquisition. This funding is proposed to go towards acquisition of an 80-acre Holst property proposed as an addition to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA (now 83 acres). The appraisal is complete and an offer was made to the landowner in early January 2011 (with this appropriation expected to pay for about 30 acres of this acquisition – pending final option agreement). The long, narrow Hastings Sand Coulee area – totaling almost 500 acres mostly in private ownership – is largest remaining prairie complex in Dakota County and is home to 13 rare species including 3 snakes and 2 butterflies. The 80-acre Holst tract immediately adjoins the 78-acre parcel being transferred from DNR Fish and Wildlife Division (Hastings WMA) to DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division to be added to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. The SNA program in cooperation with Metro Corridors partner Friends of the Mississippi is also in the process of acquiring a 25.64-acre parcel from the City of Hastings (that adjoins the WMA parcel and is kitty-corner to the Holst property). The Holst tract has dry sand-gravel prairie next to the WMA parcel as well as large area of oak savanna suffering from woody encroachment. Having these 3 contiguous parcels added to the SNA will greatly increase the ability of DNR and FMR to ecologically manage these sites for their phenomenal ensemble of rare species and unique plant communities.

M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

M.L. 2008

Staff or Contract Services: \$58,903 – unclassified acquisition staff – ≤ 0.1 FTE paid exclusively from project funds; and classified DNR crew – equivalent to 0.8 FTE for 1 year – and seasonal burn crew – approx. 7 laborers for 3 weeks).

Equipment: \$2,545 (fleet charges and incidental parts for trucks and field equipment).

Development and Restoration: \$1,731 (materials and supplies, such as fencing, signs, etc and instate travel needed for restoration and development work by crews)

Acquisition, including easements: \$268,650 (towards fee acquisition of about 34 acres, including \$24,824 of related real estate transaction costs for this and other projects with offer made under this appropriation and \$133 of acquisition related instate travel expenses – not including personnel listed above)

Other: NA

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$515,000

M.L. 2009

Personnel: ~~\$58,000~~ ~~\$55,500~~ (for classified and unclassified SNA program & other DNR staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.06 FTE acquisition specialist; up to ~0.04 FTE management plan writer- coordinator – new position; up to ~ 0.2 FTE specialists and technicians; and ~ 0.3 FTE laborers and seasonal crews).

Contracts: ~~\$5,500~~ ~~\$4,000~~ (MCC and contractors selected through bid process as needed to complete restoration and development projects and SNA adaptive management plans).

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: ~~\$3,000~~ ~~\$6,500~~ (truck & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts; materials and supplies, such as fencing, signs, gloves, PPE, chemical, etc.)

Acquisition, including easements: ~~\$542,991~~ ~~\$342,000~~, (towards fee acquisition of about ~~6.7~~ 36 acres to be owned by DNR & designated SNA; including related real estate transaction costs for all projects initiated through this appropriation)

Travel: ~~\$509~~ ~~\$2,000~~ (instate travel as needed by land acquisition specialists evaluating site & negotiating with landowners & as needed by project staff for restoration & development work.)

Other:

TOTAL 2009 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$610,000 ~~\$410,000~~

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

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners:

M.L. 2008 & M.L. 2009

SNA will develop and implement its projects in cooperation with Metro Greenways, Friends of the Mississippi River, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Great River Greening, The Trust for Public Land, and local partners. SNA may also involve the Minnesota Conservation Corps, Sentence to Serve, local groups, and volunteers in project implementation.

B. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:

M.L. 2008 & M.L. 2009

Restoration/enhancement project work will be supplemented by bonding (estimated at \$100,000 not listed as match) and NGO partners using other state or non-state funds (not listed as match). Acquisitions under the M.L. 2008 appropriation are expected to leverage non-state funding and/or landowner donations (estimated at \$125,000, listed in Table A of overall Metro Corridors proposal) and be supplemented as needed by state bonding (not listed as match). Funding sources used for acquisition projects done through these appropriations and pro-rated acreages will be reported in work program updates.

C. Spending History:

SNA acquisition, restoration and development project funding targeted at the Metro Corridors received in CY 2005-2008: LCCMR – 2007 SNA Metro Corridors \$243K and 2008 SNA Metro Corridors \$515K; other State appropriations – RIM Match \$78K; federal funds – LAWCON \$384K; non-state funds Dakota County \$566K and other partner contributions & landowner donations. The SNA program general fund includes approximately \$400,000 annually for statewide operations and crew.

D. Time: M.L. 2008: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010; M.L. 2009: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011.

E. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project will help protect and perpetuate rare species, SGCNs, and natural features of state significance at 12-17 SNA sites within the Metro mapped corridors the state selected because of their importance and strategic value in protecting these rare resources. As a part of the State Outdoor Recreation system, all of these sites are managed as state SNAs that provide public access and opportunities to the public for nature observation and study.

The SNA Long Range Plan has a goal of protection through SNA designation within each ecological subsection of five occurrences of each native plant community (NPC) and three occurrences of each natural heritage element found in that subsection. The Division of Ecological Resources is in the process of using the recently revised Native Plant Community Classification system to assess the extent of protection for each NPC per subsection – looking at both numbers of occurrences (NPC polygons) and acreage protected. This demonstrates a substantial need for more SNA land acquisition and native habitat restoration/development for at least the next 2 decades. Towards this end, the Division could readily utilize support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund and/or the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council of \$2M to \$8M per biennium over this timeframe.

VII. DISSEMINATION: SNA in cooperation with its partners will issue a press release and/or publicize a dedication event for each acquisition completed through this project. Other dissemination of information will be through Metro Corridors partnership, Embrace Open Space, and on the Metro Corridors website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1st and August 1st of each year. A final work program report and associated products for M.L. 2008 will be submitted no later than August 1, 2010 as requested by the LCCMR and a final work program report and associated products for M.L. 2009 will be submitted no later than August 1, 2011.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects			FINAL - after amendment to move \$s to Fisheries					
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase IV - Scientific & Natural Areas - 3(a)2.5 & 3.6								
Project Manager Name: Margaret (Peggy) Booth								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$358,000								
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								
				FINAL				
2008 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (12-8-09)	Balance (12-8-09)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (8-3-10)	Balance (8-3-10)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	SNA Restoration & Enhancement - FINAL			SNA Acquisition				
BUDGET ITEM								
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits: Unclassified acquisition staff (approx 0.1 FTE; paid exclusively from project funds) and classified project crews (paid almost exclusively with special project funds) to carry out restoration and enhancement, amounting to approx. 0.6 FTE over the life of the project and seasonal burn crew (approx 6 laborers for 2 weeks). <small>Fringe varies from 14.8 - 18%</small>	55,845	55,845	0	3,058	3,058	0	58,903	0
Contracts			0			0	0	0
Professional/technical (with whom?, for what?)			0			0	0	0
Other contracts (with whom?, for what?) list out: personnel, equipment, etc.			0			0	0	0
Other direct operating costs (for what? – be specific)			0			0	0	0
Equipment: car, truck, tractor, trailer & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts for tractor, vehicles, etc.	2,545	2,545	0	0	0	0	2,545	0
Office equipment & computers - NOT ALLOWED unless unique to the project			0			0	0	0
Other Capital equipment (list specific items)			0			0	0	0
Land acquisition		0	0	268,650	268,650	0	268,650	0
Land rights acquisition (less than fee)			0			0	0	0
Real Estate Transaction Costs (e.g. professional services, survey, AG, title, recording, etc)		0	0	24,824	24,824	0	24,824	0
Printing			0			0	0	0
Other Supplies: e.g. fencing, exclosure mats, signs, seeds, gloves, chemical, etc	1,248	1,248	0		0	0	1,248	0
Travel expenses in Minnesota	1,214	1,214	0	133	133	0	1,347	0
Travel outside Minnesota (where?)			0			0	0	0
Construction (for what?)			0			0	0	0
Other land improvement: direct expenses not included above for purposes of meeting min. standards & restoration	483	483	0		0	0	483	0
Other (Describe the activity and cost) be specific			0			0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$61,335	\$61,335	\$0	\$296,665	\$296,665	\$0	\$358,000	\$0

Table 2. Potential 2008-09 METRO CORRIDORS Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition

Note: all locations in 2008 work program list are also included in 2009 list.

updated January 2011

Appr. Year	Location Name	County	Proposed SNA Addition	Proposed New SNA	Estimated Acres	Ecological Features (primary)	Status
2008	Franconia Bluffs	Chisago	x		<1500	forested bluff-floodplain complex along St. Croix R.	32-ac acquisition acquired - with other funding
2008	Hastings Sand Coulee	Dakota	x		<300	dry and-gravel prairie, oak savanna, rare species	<u>new 80-acre project candidate for \$200K from MGW - offer made in January 2011</u>
2008	Pine Bend Bluffs	Dakota	x		<200	forested bluff-floodplain, Mississippi R frontage	offer made on addition of up to 71 acres; with majority of funding to be bonding; <u>will close in Dec 2010 but not proposed to include</u>
2008	Seminary Fen	Carver	x		<100	calcareous fen, forested bluff	<u>revised offer made on 21 acres - still potential under 2009 MGW \$s</u>
2008	Twin Lakes	Isanti		x	<800	wetland-forest-shallow lake complex	47.9 acre site acquired; offer on other acquisition rejected by landowner
2009	Goodhue Bluffs	Goodhue		x	<1000	forested bluff-floodplain, lower Vermillion R frontage, overlooking Vermillion R bottoms & Mississippi R; is IBA	landowner discussions initiated; landowner requests delay in project until plan for proposed trail progresses
2009	Savage Fen	Scott	x		<370	calcareous fen, forested bluff	<u>acquisition closed through 3rd party in part with this funding; potential transfer of ~190 acres of USFWS land to SNA in progress</u>