

## 2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

**PROJECT TITLE:** Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition (3f)  
**PROJECT MANAGER:** Margaret (Peggy) Booth  
**AFFILIATION:** DNR Division of Ecological Resources  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** St Paul, MN 55155-4025  
**PHONE:** 651-259-5088  
**E-MAIL:** [peggy.booth@state.mn.us](mailto:peggy.booth@state.mn.us)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas)  
**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(f)

\$1,000,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acquisition of scientific and natural areas in the southern two-thirds of Minnesota. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program.

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$1,000,000

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) dollars from this appropriation contributed toward the acquisition of six sites protecting a total of 673 acres (211.3 acres using ENRTF dollars; 461.7 acres using other funds) with rare features and native plant communities. These acquisitions resulted in three new Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) units within the State Outdoor Recreation System – Chimney Rock SNA (Dakota County), Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA (Steele County), and Lester Lake SNA (Hubbard County) – plus additions to three existing SNAs – Franconia Bluffs SNA (Chisago County), Lake Alexander Woods SNA (Morrison County), and St. Wendel Tamarack Bog SNA (Stearns County).

About the sites:

- The 77-acre new Chimney Rock SNA acquisition included a landowner donation and funding from Dakota County and the Department's rare species mitigation funds (prorated at 44.6 acres for this appropriation). Chimney Rock SNA is named for its unique geological feature of statewide significance and contains four rare plant species.
- The 21-acre Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA contains the world's largest population of the Minnesota endemic species of dwarf trout lily which straddles and is riparian to the Straight River.
- The new 440-acre Lester Lake site – jointly managed as an SNA and an Aquatic Management Area (320 acres designated as SNA and 120 acres designated as AMA) – was acquired through the Trust for Public Land with funding support from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Kabekona Lake Association and Foundation, and Reinvest in Minnesota (prorated at 30.3 ENRTF acres for this appropriation). This site fully contains the undisturbed 70-acre Lester Lake, forested and sedge meadow native plant communities, and habitat for state special concern red-shouldered hawk and white adder's mouth orchid.
- Additions to existing SNAs include various native forest communities at the 35-acre Franconia Bluffs SNA, Parcel 2 (prorated at approximately 15.4 acres ENRTF), a 40-acre addition to Lake Alexander Woods SNA, and a 60-acre addition to the St. Wendel Tamarack Bog.

## Trust Fund 2008 Work Program and Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: October 28, 2010

Date of Next Status Report: March 1, 2010

	<b>M.L. 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2009</b>
Date of Work program Approval:	June 10, 2008	June 16, 2009
Project Completion Date:	June, 30 2010	June 30, 2011

**I. PROJECT TITLE:**        **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition (3f) [M.L. 2008]**  
**Statewide Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Restoration (4f) [M.L. 2009]**

**Project Manager:**        Margaret (Peggy) Booth  
**Affiliation:**                DNR Division of Ecological Resources  
**Mailing Address:**        500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25  
**City / State / Zip :**        St Paul, MN 55155-4025  
**Telephone Number:**      651-259-5088  
**E-mail Address:**         [peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us)  
**FAX Number:**              651-296-1811  
**Web Page address:**      [www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas)

**Location:**                    2008: southern two-thirds of statewide, primarily in DNR Regions 1, 3, and 4; 2009: statewide (See Figure 1)

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>M.L. 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
Trust Fund Appropriation:	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$590,000</b>	<b>\$1,590,000</b>
Encumbrances:	<b><u>\$51,865</u></b>	<b><u>\$37,053</u></b>	<b><u>\$88,918</u></b>
Minus Amount Spent:	<b><u>\$948,135</u></b>	<b><u>\$45,564</u></b>	<b><u>\$993,699</u></b>
Equal Balance:	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$507,383</u></b>	<b><u>\$507,383</u></b>

**Legal Citation:**

**M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(f).**

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,000,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acquisition of scientific and natural areas in the southern two-thirds of Minnesota. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program.

**M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)**

**Appropriation Language:**

\$590,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire high quality native plant communities and rare features and restore parts of scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program.

## **II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

### M.L. 2008

About 180 acres of high quality native habitat will be acquired and designated as Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) in order to protect elements of natural diversity of state importance, such as rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, and geological features, and to provide for their use for scientific study, education, and nature observation.

### M.L. 2009

This project would protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state as state Scientific and Natural Area those nature features that possess exceptional scientific or education value. Specifically, about 100 acres of high quality native plant communities, rare plants and animals and other natural features of statewide importance would be acquired and designated as state Scientific and Natural Area. Also, about 600 acres of SNAs 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.

## **III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF APRIL 1, 2010:**

### M.L. 2008

Three acquisition projects have been completed using all or in part this funding – 35-acre Franconia Bluffs SNA, Parcel 2 (Chisago County), a 40-acre addition to Lake Alexander Woods SNA (Morrison County), and the recent acquisition of the 440-acre Lester Lake parcel (to be designated the new Lester Lake SNA with an Aquatic Management Area subunit). The DNR has committed funds (election-to-purchase) to two projects – a 60-acre addition to the St. Wendel Tamarack Bog (Stearns County) and acquisition of about 76 acres which will become the new Chimney Rock SNA (Dakota County). Also, the landowner has signed the option to sell 21 acres to the DNR to become the new Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA.

### M.L. 2009

Two acquisition projects are underway with this funding – a proposed 240-acre new SNA called Dinner Creek in Hubbard County and a 17-acre addition to Cold Spring Heron Colony SNA (Stearns County). Woody encroachment removal towards improving rock outcrop and native prairie habitat has been completed by MCC crews on 16 acres at three sites (Racine Prairie SNA, Iron Horse Prairie SNA and Swede's Forest SNA). Restoration and development projects have been initiated at several sites, including preparation for numerous prescribed burns (pending appropriate weather conditions).

## **PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2010:**

### M.L. 2008

Five acquisition projects protecting 652 acres (192.4 pro-rated LCCMR acres) have been completed using all or in part this funding – 35-acre Franconia Bluffs SNA, Parcel 2 (Chisago County), a 40-acre addition to Lake Alexander Woods SNA (Morrison County), 320 acres out of the 440-acre Lester Lake parcel as designated the new Lester Lake SNA with the other 120 acres of the parcel as the cooperative

Lester Lake Aquatic Management Area, a 60-acre addition to the St. Wendel Tamarack Bog (Stearns County), and 77 acres which became the new Chimney Rock SNA (Dakota County). Also, the landowner option to sell 21 acres to the DNR to become the new Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA will close by end of 2010.

M.L. 2009

Four acquisition projects are is underway with this funding – a 17-acre addition to Cold Spring Heron Colony SNA (Stearns County), a up to 160-acre addition to Blanket Flower SNA (Clay County), the proposed new 52-acre Rushford Bluffs SNA, with a 5<sup>th</sup> site (a 62-acre addition to Iron Springs Bog SNA in Clearwater Co) requested through a work program amendment. Fourteen more acres of woody and invasive species removal projects have been completed and various sign, fencing, and other site development projects done at 11 SNAs across the state. Other restoration, enhancement, and development projects have been initiated at many sites across the state.

**IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result 1: SNA Acquisition**

**Description:**

The SNA program will acquire and designate as SNA approximately 280 acres of high quality native habitat in order to protect elements of natural diversity of state importance such as rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, and geological features (180 acres using M.L. 2008 appropriation and 100 acres using M.L. 2009 appropriation). The SNA goal is to preserve and perpetuate the ecological diversity of Minnesota’s heritage for scientific study, education, and nature observation. Furthermore, SNA acquisition is an important strategy of the State Wildlife Action Plan in protecting key habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Sites acquired are designated and managed as provided in MN Statute 86A.05 and MN Rules 6136. Presently, 147 SNAs encompassing over 182,000 acres have been designated in Minnesota.

Sites to be acquired under this appropriation have been identified as priorities for protection by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) with Ecological Evaluations approved for SNA acquisition by the Commissioner’s Advisory Committee. Land acquired with this appropriation will be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner. All required Trust Fund acquisition reports will be submitted for each acquisition.

Through this funding (M.L. 2008 and M.L. 2009), all or part of about 4-10 sites would be protected at estimated costs of \$2,000 to \$12,000/acre depending on appraised land values in the locations being acquired. These funds would be targeted at sites that will not be protected through other currently available ENRTF and bonding funds. Specifically, to date the sites have been identified as conservation priorities for potential acquisition under this grant are listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 1:**

M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
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Trust Fund Budget:	\$1,000,000	\$430,000	\$1,430,000
Funds Encumbered:	\$51,865	\$13,775	\$65,640
Amount Spent:	\$948,135	\$5,451	\$953,586
Balance:	\$0	\$420,774	\$420,774

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. M.L. 2008: 180 acres acquired & designated SNA	June 30, 2010	\$1,000,000	5 sites (~194.5 acres pro-rated) acquired; a 21-acre site near completion
2. M.L. 2009: 100 acres acquired & designated SNA	June 30, 2011	\$ 430,000	4 sites in progress + 1 more pending amend.

**Completion Date:** M.L. 2008: June 30, 2010; M.L. 2009: June 30, 2011

**Result Status as of December 1, 2008: NA**

**Result Status as of March 1, 2009:** Five acquisition projects are underway with this funding. First, this funding will be used in combination with Metro Corridors Phase IV funding to acquire a 35-acre addition to the Franconia Bluffs SNA in Chisago County that is currently in the appraisal process and is expected to close in May 2009. Second, negotiations are underway to acquire a 21-acre parcel in Steele County that is proposed to become the new Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA – site of the world’s largest population of the Minnesota endemic species of dwarf trout lily which straddles and is riparian to the Straight River. Third, through this funding, a set of three adjoining parcels will be added to the north side of the St. Wendel Tamarack Bog SNA – a 10 acre and 60 acre privately-owned parcels will be acquired in fee and, by previous county board resolution, when this happens the county will transfer an additional 60 acres of tax forfeit land to the state for SNA designation. These projects are expected to need about ½ of the appropriated funds, such that the SNA staff are determined the next highest priorities for use of these funds.

**Result Status as of December 1, 2009:** One acquisition project closed in Mary 2009 in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land. Specifically, the 35-acre **Franconia Bluffs SNA – Parcel 2** (Chisago County). This was acquired with a combination of this funding (pro-rated at approximately 19.6 acres – pending final transaction costs and cost info from TPL) and Metro Corridors Phase IV (prorated at approximately 15.4 acres).

Six other acquisition projects are underway with this funding. An election to purchase has been made and county board approval received on additions to Lake Alexander Woods and St. Wendell Tamarack Bog SNAs. The 40-acre addition to Lake Alexander Woods SNA is expected to close in early 2010; this site which adjoins the existing SNA is completely MCBS-mapped – hardwood forest, northern wet ash swamp, and poor fen providing habitat for red-shouldered hawk. The addition of 60-acre private parcel at St. Wendel Tamarack Bog SNA will also allow the state to receive a 60-acre tax forfeit parcel from the county.

An offer has been made on a 21-acre proposed new Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA. A 20-acre addition to the SNA which is named Cold Spring Heron Rookery SNA is underway. While this site hasn't been used by the birds as a rookery for more than a decade, it does possess a hillside of native prairie and floodplain forest adjoining the Sauk River. The proposed addition of adjoining floodplain forest straddles both sides of the Sauk River and would add 3,453 linear feet of natural shoreline to the SNA.

The proposed new Dinner Creek SNA acquisition is 240 acres of contiguous, high-quality native plant communities with high biodiversity significance, which includes old-growth pine forests. The site is part of a 3250-acre macrosite of outstanding and high biodiversity significance with undeveloped lakeshore, large patches of jack pine woodland and rich black spruce swamp, old growth red pine-white pine forest, and five rare plant species straddling Becker and Hubbard Counties.

**APPROVED WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT:** Pending approval of a work program amendment 2 more acquisition projects will be added. First, is the proposed new Chimney Rock SNA. While this landmark in Dakota County is a recognized unique geological feature of statewide significance that also contains a population of the rare kittentail plant species, it lies outside the mapped Metropolitan Conservation Corridors focus areas - thus, use of this funding is requested towards this acquisition. A 76-acre acquisition of the primary Chimney Rock feature would be done in cooperation with the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area which would do the appraisal (as a DNR 3<sup>rd</sup> party) and contribute partial funding to the project. Second, protection of the 440-acre Lester Lake site in Hubbard County has been reinitiated through the Trust for Public Land as a proposed joint AMA-SNA project. The SNA program made an offer which the landowner turned down in 2008 to acquire this MCBS-recommended site containing a whole 80-acre undeveloped lake, seepage cedar/black spruce swamps, and upland forest.

**Result Status as of April 1, 2010:** Two more acquisition projects have been completed using all or in part this funding . The 40-acre addition to **Lake Alexander Woods SNA** (Morrison County) closed in January 2010. Acquisition of the 440-acre Lester Lake parcel closed in March 2010 and will be designated the new **Lester Lake SNA** with an Aquatic Management Area subunit . This was acquired through the Trust for Public Land as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party with \$100,000 of these funds contributing approximately 6.88% of the total funding (pro-rated at approximately 30.3 acres – pending final transaction costs).

The DNR has entered into an election to purchase and has county board approval for two projects which are now in final title review by the attorney general. A 60-acre addition will be added to the **St. Wendel Tamarack Bog SNA** (Stearns County). DNR in cooperation with Dakota County and with a partial landowner donation will acquire 76.6 acres which will become the new **Chimney Rock SNA**.

The landowner has signed the option to sell 21 acres to the DNR that is proposed to become the new **Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily SNA** pending county board approval. Following site survey and county board approval, the DNR will elect to purchase this site.

M.L. 2009

Two acquisition projects are underway with this funding – a proposed 240-acre new SNA called **Dinner Creek** in Hubbard County and a 17-acre addition to **Cold Spring Heron Colony SNA** (Stearns County). Each project has run into acquisition issues (related to legal access and deed-legal description), thus the SNA program is considering starting a 3<sup>rd</sup> project with this funding – including the possibility of an additional site on the Table 1 list – see below.

**APPROVED WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT:** Pending approval of a work program amendment, one more acquisition project site will be added. The state's newest SNA is the 72-acre Boltuck-Rice Forever Wild SNA (received largely through donation of these families) on Lake Siseebakwet (Sugar Lake) in Itasca County that was established in cooperation with Itasca County to protect a complex of native plant communities with unique geological shoreline features of unusually intact ice push ridges and swales that are within an area being mapped by MCBS as high or outstanding biodiversity significance. Acquisition of a 10-acre addition would allow the program to fully protect the remainder of a developable upland forest lake frontage tract that straddles the new SNA boundary.

**M.L. 2008 Final Report Summary** [This is pending completion of Clinton Falls project which was fully obligated by June 30, 2010 as per appropriation language provision and is expected to close in late 2010.]

**Result Status as of October 28, 2010:**

M.L. 2008

Acquisition of the 440-acre Lester Lake parcel closed in March 2010 in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land and the Fisheries Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and a number of other funding partners (LCCMR-Habitat Conservation Partnership, OHC Conservation Partners Legacy Grant, and the Kabekona Lake Foundation), but a management decision was subsequently made to split the designation into the new 320-acre **Lester Lake SNA** and the adjoining and cooperatively management 120-acre Lester Lake Aquatic Management Area. This was acquired through the Trust for Public Land as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party with \$100,000 of these funds contributing approximately 6.88% of the landowner payment costs (pro-rated at approximately 30.3 LCCMR acres for this appropriation).

Acquisition of the 60-acre addition to the **St. Wendel Tamarack Bog SNA** (Stearns County) closed in April 2010. In cooperation with Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program and with a partial landowner donation acquisition of 76.6 acres closed in June 2010 which was designated the new **Chimney Rock SNA** with \$320,000 of these funds contributing approximately 58.18% of the landowner payment costs (pro-rated at approximately 44.6 LCCMR acres).

The site survey was completed for the optioned 21-acres proposed new **Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily**. County Board approval took longer than expected in order to resolve satisfactorily their concerns about an adjoining county ditch. Following final attorney general title opinion, the project is expected to close in late 2010.

M.L. 2009

The projects originally initiated under this appropriation all experienced significant delays. The 17-acre addition to **Cold Spring Heron Colony SNA** (Stearns County) is now back on track since the landowner produced the needed ownership documentation. Now that the 60-acre private land acquisition at **St. Wendell Tamarack Bog SNA** (Stearns Co) is completed with the 2008 appropriation, work can proceed on obtaining another 60 acres of tax forfeit land with this appropriation covering necessary DNR costs to add the land to the SNA. The previously proposed addition to the Boltuck-Rice Forever Wild SNA and the new Dinner Creek acquisition have been delayed and will be pursued with other funding.

Three other projects are proposed for work under this funding to assure that sufficient projects will be able to close by the end of FY11. Two of other acquisition projects underway that were already on Table 1 have been provisionally moved to this funding. One is an addition of up to 160 acres at **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay County) featuring high quality dry sand-gravel prairie (providing habitat for regal fritillary and Nuttall's ground rose) as well as woodland and lakeshore plus adding significant acreage to the SNA which harbors 106 bird species including greater prairie chicken; this site is one of the few ownerships in this area with high quality prairie that has not sold a wind lease to a wind farm developer. The other site already on the list is in the Root River Valley and is proposed to become the new the **Rushford Bluffs SNA**; this 52-acre site contains very rare dry barrens oak savanna (southern) with the state endangered rough seeded flameflower and the special concern species clasping milkweed, as well as two types of oak woodland and Mn Threatened timber rattlesnakes. The site is currently for sale in Rushford and adjoins property acquired for a new high school thus providing unique, cooperative environmental education opportunities.

**WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT REQUEST:** Pending approval of a work program amendment, one more acquisition project site will be added for potential funding through this appropriation. Specifically, the proposed addition to **Iron Springs Bog SNA** (Clearwater County) provides additional MCBS-mapped bog and forest habitat to this SNA, buffers the existing SNA, and will resolve the issue of lack of appropriate public access to the SNA. The existing 215-acre SNA is a conifer swamp with several rare species and a history of active use by researchers since the 1930's. The SNA program has unsuccessfully been trying to secure a safe road

access and parking area for this site. When the adjoining land was put up for sale this summer, an MCBS ecologist evaluated it and recommended it as an addition to the SNA which will also solve the public access issue.

**Result Status as of March 1, 2011:**

**M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary:**

**Result 2: Restoration and Development of SNAs**

**Description:**

Restoration, enhancement, and development activities on about 600 acres at approximately 25 Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) statewide will improve the health and sustainability of native biodiversity of native prairie, savanna, old growth forest, and other native plant communities. 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.

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 on SNAs across the state (outside of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership mapped corridors). 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. Results will be 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.

All SNAs are candidates for restoration, enhancement, and development work, with the highest priority sites (not including sites with prairie work targeted through other funding) are listed in Table 2 and highlighted in Figure 1.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 2:**

	<b>M.L. 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>
<b>Funds Encumbered:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$23,278</b>	<b>\$23,278</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$40,113</b>	<b>\$40,113</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$96,609</b>	<b>\$98,609</b>

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1. ~30 acres restoration/reconstruction</b>	June 30, 2011	\$25,000	initiated
<b>2. ~140 acres invasive species control &amp;</b>	June 30, 2011	\$48,000	initiated;

woody encroachment removal			32 acres complete
3. ~430 acres prescribed burning	June 30, 2011	\$50,000	planned for spring
4. site development at ~ 10 SNAs	June 30, 2011	\$13,000	projects completed at 11 sites
5. ~ 5 management plan (updates or new)	March 1, 2011	\$24,000	initiated

**Completion Date:** M.L. 2009: June 30, 2011

**Result Status as of December 1, 2009:** Restoration and development projects have been initiated at several sites. Woody encroachment removal on 19 acres at three sites (Racine Prairie SNA and 2 additional sites to the project list –Iron Horse Prairie SNA and Swede’s Forest SNA.) has been targeted as higher priorities because of threats of woody invasives on the native prairie and rock outcrop communities and time sensitive opportunities to use MCC crews to complete the work. See Table 2.

**Result Status as of April 1, 2010:** Woody encroachment removal towards improving rock outcrop and native prairie habitat has been completed by MCC crews on 16 acres at three sites (Racine Prairie SNA, Iron Horse Prairie SNA and Swede’s Forest SNA). Restoration and development projects have been initiated at several sites, including preparation for numerous prescribed burns (pending appropriate weather conditions). A 16-acre savanna-dune restoration project focusing at this time on woody encroachment removal at Uncas Dunes is requested to be added to this fund’s list (to supplement other primary funding for the project – with final acres pro-rated). Other sites requested to be added to this funding involve opportunities (weather dependent) for prescribed burns at Cannon River Turtle Preserve, Uncas Dunes, Hythecker Prairie, Kasota Prairie, and Yellow Bank Hills. See Table 2.

**Result Status as of September 1, 2010:** Fourteen more acres of woody and invasive species removal projects have been completed (including another CCM project treating herbaceous invasives across 2 acres at Sugarloaf Point SNA on Lake Superior) and various sign, fencing, and other site development projects done at 11 SNAs across the state. The specific sites being worked on with this fund are listed in Table 2.

**Result Status as of March 1, 2011:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:**

M.L. 2008

**Staff or Contract Services:** \$3,500 (for classified and unclassified SNA staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.4 FTE acquisition specialist

**Equipment:** \$500 (truck & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts as needed for acquisition site visits, landowner negotiations and up to bring sites to minimum standards)

**Development:** \$0 Note: any of this work will be done through the 2009 appropriation under this work program.

**Acquisition:** \$995,800 (towards fee acquisition of about 180 acres; including about ~~\$50,000~~ **\$65,800** of related real estate transaction costs) Note: real estate costs have been increased due to increased number of projects and associated costs include for survey.

**Other:** \$200 (instate travel as needed by land acquisition specialist evaluating site & negotiating with landowners

**TOTAL 2008 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$1,000,000**

#### M.L. 2009

**Personnel:** \$143,000 (for classified and unclassified SNA program & other DNR staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.1 FTE acquisition specialist; up to ~0.1 FTE management plan writer & contract coordinator – new position; up to ~ 0.5 FTE specialists and technicians; and ~ 0.6 FTE laborers and seasonal crews).

**Contracts:** \$15,000 (MCC and contractors selected through bid process as needed to complete restoration and development projects).

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$13,000 (truck & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts; materials and supplies, such as fencing, signs, gloves, PPE, chemical, etc.)

**Acquisition, including easements:** \$415,000 (towards fee acquisition of about 100 acres to be owned by DNR & designated SNA; including related real estate transaction costs)

**Travel:** \$4,000 (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: \$590,000**

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

## **VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS / PROJECT STRATEGY:**

### **A. Project Partners:**

#### M.L. 2008 & M.L. 2009

SNA will develop and implement its projects in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and/or local partners.

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

#### M.L. 2008 & M.L. 2009

These Environmental Trust fund appropriations will be supplemented by other state funding (e.g. bonding and potentially other LCCMR recommended funding) and non-

state funds (e.g. federal SWG, private funds, and partial landowner donations) as needed to complete priority acquisitions and restoration and development projects. 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 appropriations received in CY 2005-2008 (not counting those targeted exclusively to Metro Corridors, HCP, or private prairie stewardship): 2005 SNA Statewide \$134K; 2008 SNA Statewide \$1M; Accelerated Prairie (Results 4 & 6 only) \$775K. FY06-08 Bonding appropriations: 2006 SNA \$2M; 2008 SNA \$1M; 2008 Native Prairie \$4M. Federal funds spent as of 4/1/09 in FY06-09: State Wildlife Grants \$94K,. Other funds spent: 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, 2010.

**E. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

This project will help protect and perpetuate rare species, SGCNs, and natural features of state significance at approximately 25-35 SNA sites across 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.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than March 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. A final work program report and associated products for the 2008 appropriation will be submitted no later than August 1, 2010 as

requested by the LCCMR and a final work program report and associated products for the 2009 appropriation will be submitted no later than August 1, 2011.

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA**

<b>Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects</b>		updated 10/28/10							
<b>Project Title: Scientific &amp; Natural Area Acquisition (3f)</b>									
<b>Project Manager Name: Margaret (Peggy) Booth</b>									
<b>Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 1,000,000</b>									
	<b>REVISED BUDGET April 2010</b>			<b>REVISED BUDGET October 2010</b>					
<b>2008 Trust Fund Budget</b>	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent (4/14/10)</u>	<u>Balance (4/14/10)</u>	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent (6/30/10)</u>	<u>Encumbrance (6/30/10)</u>	<u>Balance (6/30/10)</u>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
	<b>SNA Acquisition</b>			<b>SNA Acquisition</b>					
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>									
<b>PERSONNEL: wages and benefits:</b> classified and unclassified SNA staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.1 FTE acquisition specialist and ~ 0.1 FTE project crew as needed to bring sites up to minimum standards . Fringe varies from 14 -20%	3,500	3,220	280	3,843	3,843		0	3,843	0
<b>Equipment:</b> truck, tractor, trailer & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts for tractor, vehicles, etc. as need for acquisition site visits, landowner negotiations & to bring sites up to minimum standards	500	418	82	419	419		0	419	0
<b>Land acquisition</b>	930,000	403,493	526,507	926,946	875,081	51,865	0	926,946	51,865
<b>Real Estate Transaction Costs</b> (e.g. professional services, survey, AG, title, recording, etc)	65,800	46,244	19,556	68,713	68,713		0	68,713	0
<b>Other Supplies:</b> e.g. fencing, signs, etc as needed to bring sites up to minimum standards	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b>	200	79	121	79	79		0	79	0
<b>Other land improvement:</b> direct expenses not included above for purposes of meeting minimum standards	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$453,455</b>	<b>\$546,546</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$948,135</b>	<b>\$51,865</b>	<b>\$51,865</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$51,865</b>

**Table 1. Proposed 2008-09 Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - STATEWIDE**

REVISED10/28/10

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

Appr. Year	Location Name	County	Proposed SNA Addition	Proposed New SNA	Estimated Acres	Ecological Features (primary)	Status
2008	Avon Hills Forest	Stearns	x		300+	mesic oak forest	one project initiated; may utilize 2008 bonding
2008	Big Stone Moraine prairie complex	Big Stone		x	<300	rock outcrop, prairie	no current projects; NPB (Native Prairie Bank conservation easement) acquisition being pursued
2008	Big Woods of Cottonwood R forest-prairie complex	Lyon		x	>1200	snow trillium, mesic forest, sedge meadow, prairie	no current projects
2008	Boiling Springs Prairie	Redwood		x	<100	mesic prairie	no current projects; proposed for 2011 Green Corridor work
2008	Cedar Mountain	Redwood	x		<320	rock outcrop, prairie, oak woodland; igneous rock intrusion	no current projects; proposed for 2011 Green Corridor work
2008	Chanarambie Creek	Murray		x	250	dry prairie	no current projects; most top priority sites now NPB
2008	Clinton Falls	Steele		x	21	Dwarf Trout Lily	<b>landowner signed option; being approved by county board, remainder of 2008 appropriation encumbered for this landowner payment</b>
2008	Cooks Lake Forest	Ottertail & Becker		x	<1800	mesic hardwood forest, undeveloped lakeshore	no current projects
2008	Des Moines R prairie-forest complex	Jackson	x		<1500	oak woodland, mesic prairie	landowner rejected offer on addition of up to 80 acres to Holthe Prairie SNA under 2008 LCCMR Accelerated Prairie project
2008	Felton Prairie	Clay	x		<8000	prairie complex, including sand-gravel prairie on beach ridge	addition to Felton Prairie SNA initiated; on hold - with next step by county
2008	Franconia Bluffs	Chisago	x		<1500	forested bluff-floodplain complex along St. Croix R.	<b>32-ac acquisition closed in May 2008 through 2008 appropriation with partial funding also from 2007 LCCMR MeCC</b>
2008	Kasota Prairie	Le Sueur	x		780	mesic prairie, loggerhead shrike	no current projects
2008	Lower Antelope Valley prairie complex	Yellow Medicine		x	<250	saline prairie, wet prairie	NPB acquisition being pursued with potential as future SNA
2008	Mikkelson Prairie	Swift		x	<300	prairie	no current projects
2008	Morton Outcrops	Renville		x	65	bedrock knob, mesic prairie	acquisition project initiated; proposed for 2008 prairie or as potential Green Corridor project
2008	Yellow Medicine Coteau (was previously called No. Prairie Coteau prairie macrosite - Sioux Nation area)	Yellow Medicine	x	(x)	<1070	dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, various rare species	acquisition project initiated; being pursued under 2008 prairie bonding
2008	St Wendel Tamarack Bog	Stearns	x		<1000	tamarack bog	<b>60-acre acquisition closed April 2010 with 2008 appropriation; expenses for acquiring donation of adjoining 60-acre tax forfeit parcel through 2009 appropriation</b>
2008	Ten Mile Creek Prairie	Lac Qui Parle		x	50	dry prairie	project initiated as SNA or NPB under 2008 prairie bonding
2008	Wykoff Balsam Fir	Fillmore	x		320	mesic hardwood forest, alfic talus slope, trout stream	project on hold
2009	Blanket Flower	Clay	x		400	dry prairie	<b>up to 160 acres to be acquired through this funding is in appraisal; 2 projects underway through 2008 prairie bonding;</b>
2009	Chester Hills	Polk		x	<1000	wetland, prairie	contact initiated
2008	Chimney Rock	Dakota		x	250	prairie & rock formation	<b>77-acre closed in June 2010 with 2008 appropriation</b>
2009	Cold Spring Heron Rookery	Stearns	x		40	river terrace forest, red-shouldered hawk, Sauk River frontage	17-acre private parcel in progress through 2009 appropriation + adjoining 23-acre tax forfeit parcel to be received from county
2009	Dexter Prairie	Mower		x	<80	mesic tall grass prairie	contact initiated
2009	Dinner Creek	Becker & Hubbard		x	<3200	forest-wetland complex, including jack pine woodland, white cedar swamp	240-acre acquisition project stalled due to lack of legal access; moved to potential project through 2010 appropriation
2009	Englund Ecotone	Benton	x		<680	oak forest, savanna, sedge meadow	discussion with landowners underway; potential project through 2010 appropriation
2009	Forever Wild	Itasca	x		10	northern rich mesic hardwood forest & beaver wetland complex	proposed 10-acre addition to newest SNA on Lake Siseebakwet (Sugar Lake) to fully protect developable upland area on SNA boundary; project deferred for future funding
2009	Hovland Woods	Cook	x		<2600	upland white cedar, northern hardwood forest	project under discussion
2009	Iron Springs Bog	Clearwater	x		62	Mississippi R frontage, bog & forest	<b>Work Program Amendment Request to add site: Property adjoining SNA currently for sale which includes mapped NPC, would buffer existing SNA &amp; solve problem of lack of public access to site</b>
2009	Little Kandiyohi-Wakanda Lakes Peninsula Forest	Kandiyohi		x	<300	wet mesic hardwood forest; rock elm, kentucky coffeetree	project initiated by 3rd party
2008	Lester Lake	Hubbard		x	440	contains whole 80-acre undeveloped lake, as well as seepage cedar/black spruce swamps	<b>440-acre acquisition (with combination of funds) closed in March 2010; 320 acres designated as new SNA &amp; 120 acres as AMA</b>
2008	Lake Alexander Woods SNA	Morrison	x		<500	hardwood forest, lake shore	<b>40-acre acquisition closed in January 2010 &amp; designated as part of Lake Alexander Woods SNA</b>
2009	Marshall-Pennington Beach Ridge	Marshall & Pennington		x	500	fen, wet prairie	no current projects
2009	Mission Creek/Magney-Snivley	St. Louis		x	<1800	northern hardwood forest	protection options under discussion
2009	Mound Prairie	Houston	x		30	bluff prairie	1 project underway with 2008 prairie bonding
2009	Nopeming Unconformity	St. Louis		x	300	geological feature, northern hardwood forest	project proposed
2009	Pipestone Quartzite Outcrops	Pipestone		x	315	bedrock outcrop with rare plants	no current projects
2009	Root River Valley-Rushford Bluffs	Fillmore		x	150	dry barrens oak savanna, oak woodland, oak-shagbark hickory woodland, bluff prairie	<b>52-acre private parcel in progress proposed through 2009 appropriation</b>
2009	Renwood Fen	Redwood		x	150	calcareous fen, prairie	proposed for 2011 Green Corridor work
2009	Swedes Forest	Redwood	x		<550	bedrock knobs with rare plants, five-lined skinks	proposed for 2011 Green Corridor work

**Table 2. Potential SNA -STATEWIDE - Restoration & Development Activities - FY10-11  
PROJECT STATUS AS OF OCTOBER 2010 - additional sites.**

SNA Name all SNAs statewide are candidate sites for work under this grant - ** denotes site proposed for acquisition	County	Updated or New Management Plan	Acres Completed (bold X if other)					Comments & Accomplishments Not Measured in Acres
			Native Plant Community Reconstruction	Woody Encroachment-Invasives Removal	Prescribed Burning	Non-Woody or Seeding Invasives Control	Development	
<b>DNR REGION 1 (NORTHWEST)</b>								
Felton Prairie-Bicentennial	Clay	X					X	
Greenwater Lake	Becker							X
Iron Springs Bog	Clearwater	X						X
Lake Bronson Parkland	Kittson				X			
Otter Tail Prairie	Otter Tail							X
Pembina Trail-Crookston Unit	Polk	X						
<u>Pembina Trail-Foxboro Unit</u>	<u>Polk</u>							<u>X</u> culverts and repair approach/gates
Prairie Smoke Dunes	Norman							X culvert and gate installed
Santee Prairie	Mahnomen							X gate installed
Two Rivers Aspen Parkland	Roseau				X			X
<b>DNR REGION 2 (NORTHEAST)</b>								
Chisholm Point Island	Itasca						2	
Hemlock Ravine	Carlton							X 1000' of exclosure reinforcement
Moose Mountain	St. Louis							X boundary brushing
Myhr Creek Ridge	Cook							X
Sugarloaf Point	Cook						2	
<b>DNR REGION 3 (CENTRAL)</b>								
Avon Hills Forest	Stearns							
<u>Boot Lake</u>	<u>Anoka</u>							X 412 ft boundary fencing completed
Cannon River Turtle Preserve	Goodhue							
Cherry Grove Blind Valley	Fillmore	X	X		X			proposed Rx burn spring 2011
<u>Falls Creek</u>	<u>Washington</u>							X site cleanup - 1 dump completed
<u>Franconia</u>	<u>Washington</u>							X 2975 ft of boundary signing completed & site cleanup initiated
Kellogg-Weaver Dunes	Wabasha				X			proposed Rx burn spring 2011
<u>N. Fork Zumbro Woods</u>	<u>Goodhue</u>							X signing completed
Oronoco Prairie	Olmsted				X			proposed Rx burn spring 2011
Quarry Park	Stearns				X			proposed Rx burn spring 2011
<u>Seminary Fen</u>	<u>Carver</u>							X site cleanup completed
<u>St. Croix Savanna</u>	<u>Washington</u>							X site cleanup completed
St. Wendel Tamarack Bog	Stearns							
<u>Wolsfeld Woods</u>	<u>Hennepin</u>							X trail repair completed
<u>Wood-Rill</u>	<u>Hennepin</u>							X 3378 ft trail repair completed
Uncas Dunes	Sherburne			X	X			
Zumbro Falls Woods	Wabasha		X	X	X			biomass project completed; proposed fall 2010 & spring 2011 Rx burn 10 acres & reconstruction 10 acres
<b>DNR REGION 4 (SOUTH)</b>								
Blue Devil Valley	Yellow Medicine							
<u>Butternut Valley Prairie</u>	<u>Blue Earth</u>			12				X all scattered buckthorn removed; signs installed
Cedar Mountain	Redwood							
**Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily (proposed SNA)	Steele							
Clinton Prairie								2010 Rx burn done with other funding
<u>Compass</u>	<u>Nobles</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Cottonwood River Prairie</u>	<u>Brown</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Des Moines River Prairie</u>	<u>Jackson</u>					X		burn break completed; proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Gneiss Outcrops</u>	<u>Chippewa</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Holthe</u>	<u>Jackson</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
Hythecker Prairie	Dodge							2010 Rx burn done with other funding
Iron Horse Prairie		X		8				proposed spring 10 rx burn
Kasota Prairie	LeSueur							2010 Rx burn done with other funding
<u>Lundblad Prairie</u>	<u>Murray</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
** Morton Outcrop (proposed SNA)	Renville							
<u>Mound Springs</u>	<u>Yellow Medicine</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Osmundson</u>	<u>Faribault</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Prairie Coteau</u>	<u>Pipestone</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
Racine Prairie	Mower	X		4				proposed spring 2011 rx burn
<u>Rock Ridge</u>	<u>Cottonwood</u>							proposed spring 2011 rx burn
Swede's Forest	Yellow Medicine-Redwood	X		4				
Wild Indigo Prairie	Mower			X				proposed spring 2011 rx burn
Yellow Bank Hills	Lac Qui Parle							2010 Rx burn done with other funding
<b>TOTAL acres</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	