

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) - Phase VI

2N: Campaign for Conservation - Restoration - The Nature Conservancy

PROJECT MANAGER: Rich Johnson

AFFILIATION: The Nature Conservancy

MAILING ADDRESS: 1101 West River Parkway

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WEBSITE: <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2009, Chapter 143, Section 2, Subd. 4(e)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$315,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 2009 work program focused on 6 habitat restoration projects totaling 3,664 acres (3,118-ENRTF funds; 546-other funds). Additional details, beyond the short summary below, are found in the more detailed reporting provided for each project.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie: Prairie was restored on 183 acres (88 acres-ENRTF; 95 acres-other funds) of TNC land on this key parcel for building connections within the Bluestem Prairie complex. Project activities included seed collection, site preparation, sowing, and follow work to control invasives in the restoration area.

Western MN Invasives Control & Prescribed Fire: TNC accelerated management activities on 1,067 acres (798 acres-ENRTF; 269 acres-other funds) of TNC lands. Activities included planning/implementing prescribed fire on 1,060 acres, buckthorn removal, and a focused effort on controlling leafy spurge

Prairie Coteau Restoration: Prairie was restored on 84 acres (all acres-ENRTF) of TNC land in a key parcel for connecting remaining areas of native prairie in the Lac qui Parle complex. Completed work included preparing and seeding 71 acres, clearing trees, buckthorn removal, and fence removal.

Prairie Forest Border Restoration: This project accelerated prescribed fire and invasives management on 2,091 acres (1,932 acres-ENRTF; 159 acres-other funds) of TNC and public grassland, wetland and forest at 7 sites in Central and Southeastern Minnesota. Individual activities included planning/implementing prescribed fire on 1,392 acres, invasive surveys/treatment on 560 acres, brush removal on 135 acres, and buckthorn removal on 19 acres.

NE MN Conifer Restoration: 114 acres (all acres-ENRTF) of TNC and public land was managed to encourage the regeneration of conifers in Northeast Minnesota. Project tasks included installing exclosures and budcaps to prevent browsing and using brush saws, grass mats, and grubbing to control competing vegetation.

Sand Prairie Restoration: Prairie was restored on 90 acres and existing habitat was enhanced on an additional 35 acres of TNC land buffering the outstanding native prairie on the adjoining Weaver Dunes SNA (102 acres-ENRTF; 23 acres-other funds). Project activities included seed collection, site

preparation, three rounds of sowing with a high-diversity 115-species mix, brush clearing, and surveying/treating invasive species.

One thing to note when reviewing detailed information on the individual projects: the completed acres shown for each project may be lower than the number of acres listed for the separate restoration activities. The lower total reflects the fact that multiple activities may have been done on the same acres.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

All restored lands are open to the public. TNC continues to coordinate with public and private partners to apply lessons learned from this project to work at these and other sites.

LCCMR Work Program Final Report

Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 6

Habitat Conservation Partnership

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Project Manager:	Rich Johnson	Fund:	Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Affiliation:	The Nature Conservancy		
Address:	1101 West River Parkway Minneapolis, MN 55415	Legal Citation:	ML 2009, Chapter 143, Section 2, Subd. 4(e)
Phone:	612-331-0790		
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E-mail:	rich_johnson@tnc.org		

Total Biennial Project Budget

Result	ENTF Allocation	ENTF Funds Spent	ENTF Balance	Other Funds Proposed	Other Funds Spent
Restoration	\$315,000	\$314,662	\$338	\$72,450	\$238,185
Total	\$315,000	\$314,662	\$338	\$72,450	\$238,185

Work Program Summary

Overall Project Outcome and Results

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One thing to note when reviewing detailed information on the individual projects... The completed acres shown for each project may be lower than the number of acres listed for the separate restoration activities. The lower total reflects the fact that multiple activities may have been done on the same acres.

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Restoration Activities

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Project Area - 1 - Aspen Parklands

<p>Project Name: Northern Tallgrass Prairie Restoration Tract: Williams Township: 139, Range: 46, Section: 36</p> <p>Activity: Grassland Restoration Landtype: Private - Land Description: This restoration is part of a large, multi-year project to reestablish prairie and wetlands on the 1,330-acre Williams property. This parcel provides a key connection between the 4,300-acre Bluestem Prairie SNA and 460-acre Margherita/Audubon Prairie Preserves. To date, federal funding, previous LCCMR appropriations, and private funds have allowed the restoration of over 800 acres of wetland and prairie on this tract.</p> <p>The goal for this project was to restore an additional 183 acres on this tract. We were able to successfully complete this work.</p> <p>Restoration activities included: 1) Seed collection/preparation from adjoining native prairie, 2) Spraying with Glyphosate to prepare for seeding on 183 acres, 3) Seeding 183 acres, and 4) Spot mowing & spraying targeting trefoil, spurge, and reed canary grass in the restoration area.</p>				
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$102,443.49	88.38	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$109,676.41	94.62	0.00
Northern Tallgrass Prairie Restoration Williams Total		\$212,119.90	183.00	0.00
<p>Project Name: Western MN Invasives Control & Prescribed Fire Tract: Multiple Township: 139, Range: 46, Section: 22</p> <p>Activity: Grassland Restoration Landtype: Private - Land Description: The goal of this project is to accelerate fire management and invasives control on TNC-owned native prairies and wetlands in Western Minnesota. This work is essential to maintaining the long-term health and diversity of the natural communities on these lands.</p> <p>The goal for this project was to manage an additional 1,000 acres. In the end, 1,067 acres were treated. Work was done at 6 sites. The largest share of this work was done in Bluestem Prairie SNA. Additional sites included Margherita/Audubon Prairie, Pankratz Memorial Prairie, Pembina Trail SNA, Strandness Prairie, Staffanson Prairie Preserves.</p> <p>Restoration activities included: 1) Prescribed fire planning & implementation on 1,060 acres, 2) Removing an especially thick buckthorn infestation on 6 acres, and 3) Surveying for leafy spurge on ~4,000 acres, and then spot treating sites, totaling ~1 acre, that were the most severely affected.</p>				
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$21,253.49	798.05	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$7,162.44	268.95	0.00
Western MN Invasives Control & Prescribed Fire Multi		\$28,415.93	1,067.00	0.00

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Project Name: Prairie Coteau Restoration Township: 120, Range: 45, Section: 15 Activity: Grassland Restoration Landtype: Private - Land Description: This project allowed restoration of the most heavily-impacted portions of a recently protected 237-acre tract at Plover Prairie. This parcel connects existing native prairie ranked as outstanding by CBS. This restoration will help buffer and enhance the over 16,000 acres of prairie in the surrounding Lac qui Parle Prairie complex. The original goal for this project was restoration on 90 acres. In the end, the project focused on 84 acres of the site. Fences were removed on the remainder of the property. Restoration activities included: 1) Seeding 71 acres with locally-obtained native prairie seed, 2) Cultipacking to ensure better germination on 59 acres, 3) Clearing trees/site leveling on 8 acres, 4) Buckthorn removal on 5 acres, 5) Fence removal on entire property, totaling 2.2 miles.				
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$29,990.35	84.00	0.00

Project Area - 3 - Border Prairie

Project Name: Prairie Forest Border Restoration Tract: Multiple Township: 122, Range: 33, Section: 16 Activity: Grassland Restoration Landtype: Private - Land Description: This project is part of a multi-year TNC collaboration with our partners to accelerate management on grasslands, savannas, and forests in the prairie-forest transition zone. This effort includes fire management and invasive controls. The original goal for this project was 1,500 acres. With favorable conditions and some great seasonal crews, this project completed management on 2,091 acres. Work was done at 7 sites, including Lake Alexander/Camp Ripley, Ordway Prairie, Ottawa Bluffs, Paul Bunyan Savanna, Regal Meadows, Sheepberry Fen, and Weaver Dunes SNA. Restoration activities included: 1) Planning/implementing prescribed fire on 1,392 acres, 2) Invasive surveys/treatment on 560 acres, especially targeting cow vetch at Weaver Dunes, 3) Brush removal on 135 acres, 4) Buckthorn removal on 19 acres.				
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$86,609.53	1,932.26	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$7,115.19	158.74	0.00
Prairie Forest Border Restoration Multiple Total		\$93,724.72	2,091.00	0.00

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Project Area - 5 - Lower St. Louis River

<p>Project Name: NE MN Conifer Restoration Tract: Multiple Township: 57, Range: 6, Section: 4</p> <p>Activity: Woodland Restoration Landtype: Public - State Forest Description: TNC is working collaboratively with the MN DNR, Lake and St. Louis Counties, and the US Forest Service to ensure biodiversity conservation in Northeast Minnesota. This larger effort has promoted enhanced management and restoration on 3,000 acres. One key part of this effort is encouraging the regeneration of threatened conifers in this area. This project was focused on this need.</p> <p>The goal for this phase of the project was conifer restoration on 140 acres. In the end, this team completed work on 114 acres with this round of funding. The discrepancy was due to a cooperative project with DNR forestry that was unable to proceed. Restoration work was done at 5 sites: Caribou Falls State Wayside, Caribou Falls WMA, DNR Forestry land near Little Marais WMA, Lake County Forestry land behind Split Rock State Park, and Manitou Collaborative lands in the Upper Manitou Forest Preserve.</p> <p>Restoration activities included: 1) Brush saw release to control competing vegetation on 114 acres, 2) Budcapping for browse protection on 76 acres, 3) Installing grass mats and grubbing to control competing vegetation on 52 acres, 4) Installing single tree deer exclosures for browse protection on 7 new acres and additional exclosures on 16 acres that had received some previous treatment.</p>				
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$27,174.16	114.00	0.00

Project Area - 11 - Mississippi Bluff Lands

<p>Project Name: Sand Prairie Restoration Tract: Burmeister Township: 109, Range: 9, Section: 18</p> <p>Activity: Grassland Restoration Landtype: Private - Land Description: This project allowed restoration of the most impacted portions of this recently protected 188-acre tract at Weaver Dunes SNA. The restored areas will help buffer and enhance the existing native prairie on other parts of this and adjoining protected properties. These prairies are part of the largest concentration of native prairie in Southeastern Minnesota, the 1,500 acre Weaver Dunes Prairie complex.</p> <p>The goal for this restoration was 25 acres. In the end, this project team was able to complete work on 125 acres. A very successful cooperation with Conservation Corps Minnesota crews was instrumental in this.</p> <p>Restoration activities included: 1) Burn 76 acres of adjoining native prairie to encourage seed production, 2) Seed harvesting/preparation on adjoining native prairie resulting in an exceptionally high-diversity seed mix with 115 species, 3) Two rounds of seeding with this high-diversity mix on 90 acres, 4) Site preparation for restoration on an additional 25 acres, 5) Brush clearing and herbicide application on an additional 60 acres, 6) Surveying/treating invasive, especially targeting cow vetch, on 100 acres.</p>				
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$47,190.90	101.63	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$10,852.85	23.37	0.00
Sand Prairie Restoration Burmeister Total		\$58,043.75	125.00	0.00

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Restoration Project Totals (By Funding Type)			
Funding Type	Funding Amount	Acres	Shoreline Feet
ENTF:	\$314,661.92	3,118.32	0.00
Other Funds:	\$134,806.89	545.68	0.00
Total:	\$449,468.81	3,664.00	0.00

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Work Program Expenditures - Not Attributable to Specific Projects

<i>FundingType</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Other Funds	Admin	\$103,377.82	An indirect cost recovery rate of 23% has been applied to the \$314,661.92 of reimbursable expenses and \$134,806.89 of other funds incurred through the restoration portion of the grant. The Conservancy's federally approved indirect cost recovery rate is 23.05% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 and 23.13% for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010. This rate is approved by the Conservancy's federal cognizant agency, the US Department of the Interior. A copy of the official negotiated indirect rate agreement can be provided upon request. To simplify reporting for the duration of this grant, that rate is being rounded down to 23%.
Total:		\$103,377.82	

Work Program Expenditures (Not Attributable to Specific Projects) By Funding Type

Funding Type	Amount
Other Funds	\$103,377.82
Total	\$103,377.82

Work Program Expenditures Breakdown

Funding Type:	Restoration Projects	Not Attributable to Specific Projects	Total
ENTF	\$314,661.92	\$0.00	\$314,661.92
Other Funds	\$134,806.89	\$103,377.82	\$238,184.71
Total	\$449,468.81	\$103,377.82	\$552,846.63

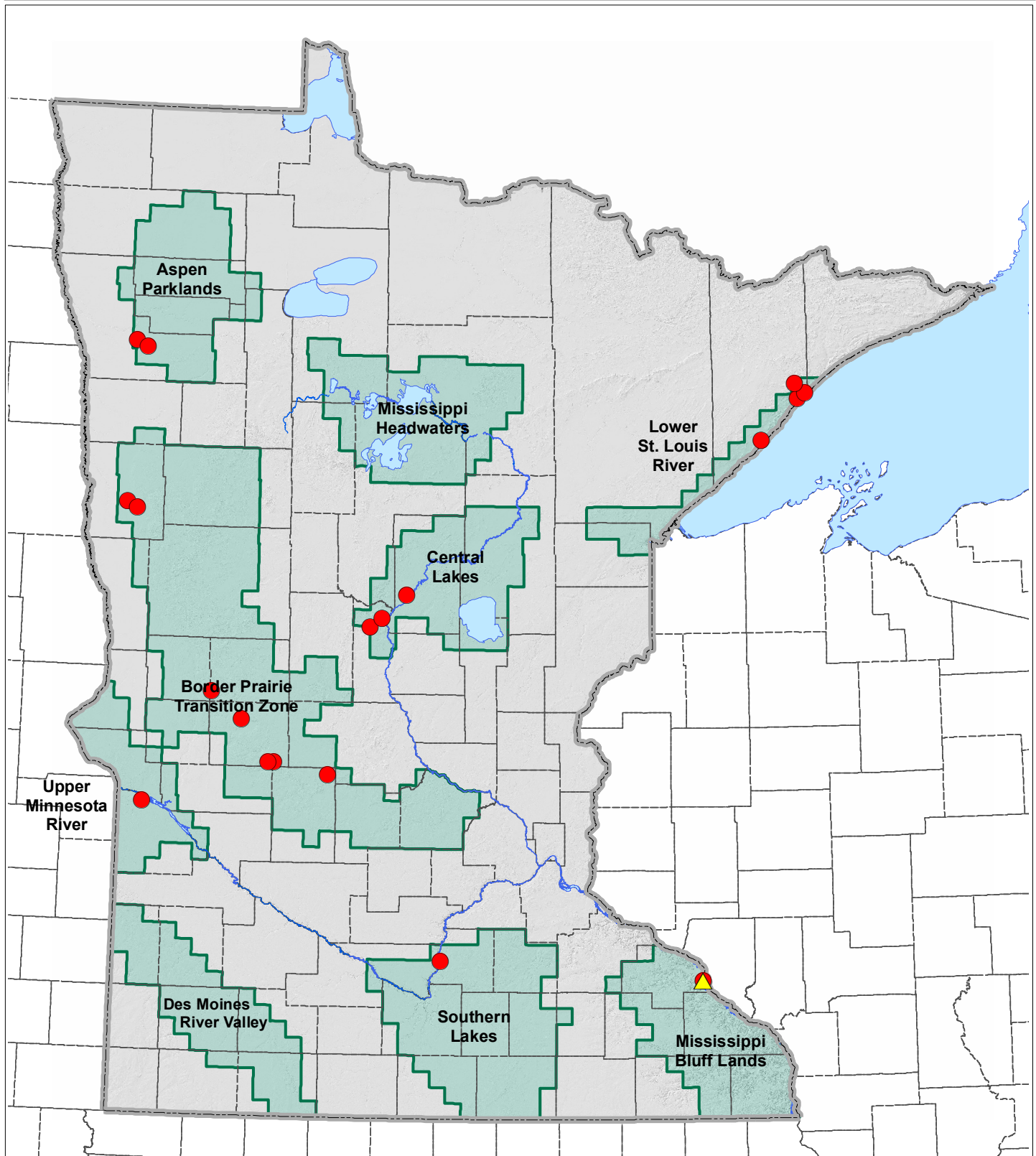
Funding Type Definitions

ENTF:	Grant dollars provided through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Other Funds:	Non-state, non-state leveraged dollars (if partner funds are leveraging State Funds (e.g. RIM) they are not eligible to be considered Other Funds)
State Funds:	State Funds expended on HCP projects (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
Partner's State Leveraged Funds:	Non State Funds that have leveraged State Funds as part of an HCP project (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
Other:	Any other expenditures (e.g. grant income funds)

Campaign for Conservation

Habitat Conservation Partnership

2009 Appropriation (Phase 6) Accomplishments



Legend

- Restoration Project Locations
- ▲ Acquisition Project Locations
- Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Areas



Map Created by: RCJ, TNC in MN-ND-SD, 2011/8/15
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