

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

TITLE: Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) – Phase VI
Shorelands Protection Program – 3A

PROJECT MANAGER: Sarah Strommen

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust

ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.mnland.org

FUND: Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 143, Section 2, Subdivision 4(e)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$210,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

In the sixth phase of our Shorelands Protection project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on quality habitat along or containing critical riparian lands. We initiated or continued contact with more than 50 landowners and completed five conservation easements. Collectively, these easements preserve 566 acres of land (508 acres-ENRTF; 58 acres-other funds)—exceeding our original goal of 300 to 500 acres—and protect nearly 17,000 feet of fragile shoreline. Two of the five easements completed involved significant bargain purchases, while the other three projects were donated easements:

- Rabbit Lake in Aitkin County: 171 acres (all acres-ENRTF) containing forest, wetland, grassland, and hay field being restored to prairie.
- Blackhoof River in Carlton County: 248 acres (all acres-ENRTF) containing a mix of forest, wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands.
- Encampment River in Lake County: 88 acres (40 acres-ENRTF; 48 acres-other funds) containing a mature conifer forest with black ash lowlands and wetlands along the Encampment River.
- Blacklock Nature Sanctuary along Lake Superior in Lake County: 11 acres (1 acre-ENRTF; 10 acres-other funds) containing forest and cobblestone beach along Lake Superior.
- Lake Elysian in Waseca County: 48 acres (all acres-ENRTF) containing oak savanna and big woods.

All five projects met the following selection criteria:

1. Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protects riparian areas and buffers water resources
2. Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands
3. Opportunity cost-benefit ratio: which landowners will participate now
4. Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

The value is known for only one of the easements. The donated value of this easement is \$515,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete the five projects completed under this phase of the grant was just over \$370 per acre.

Cumulatively, across all phases of the HCP program, the Land Trust has protected 7,461 acres of critical habitat and more than 218,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$283 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources along Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land along our increasingly threatened shorelines. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase of the grant indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.

LCCMR Work Program Final Report
Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 6
Habitat Conservation Partnership

3A: Shoreland Protection Program - Minnesota Land Trust

Project Manager:	Sarah Strommen	Fund:	Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Affiliation:	Minnesota Land Trust		
Address:	2356 University Avenue West	Legal Citation:	
	St. Paul, MN 55114		ML 2009, Chapter 143, Section 2, Subd. 4(e)
Phone:	651-647-9590		
Fax:	651-647-9769		
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Total Biennial Project Budget

Result	ENTF Balance	ENTF Funds Spent	ENTF Balance	Other Funds * Proposed	Other Funds * Spent
Easement	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$18,000
Total	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$18,000

*Other Funds are classified as 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). Please note, however, that this work program has spent the following amounts not shown in the above table:

State Funds: \$61,120.00

Other: \$515,000.00

See the tables and funding type definitions at the end of this report for further explanation.

Work Program Summary

Overall Project Outcome and Results

In the sixth phase of our Shorelands Protection project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on quality habitat along or containing critical riparian lands. We initiated or continued contact with more than 50 landowners and completed five conservation easements. Collectively, these easements preserve 566 acres of land—exceeding our original goal of 300 to 500 acres—and protect nearly 17,000 feet of fragile shoreline. Two of the five easements completed involved significant bargain purchases, while the other three projects were donated easements.

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Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.

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Easement Activities

Project Name:	Rabbit Lake
Tract:	San Felippo
Project Area:	4 - Central Lakes Township: 46, Range: 25, Section: 18
Description:	<p>This 171-acre parcel on Rabbit Lake in Aitkin County is located within the northern edge of the Mille Lacs Uplands Ecological Subsection. It lies adjacent to an existing easement held by the Minnesota Land Trust. Additionally, it lies less than a mile from Rabbit Lake WMA.</p> <p>The property contains forest, wetland, grassland, and a hay field that is gradually being restored to prairie, as well as 169 feet of shoreline along Rabbit Lake. The dominant forest cover is hardwood and pine-hardwood. The property provides natural and critical habitat that supports a diversity of wildlife including bald eagles, trumpeter swans, wood turtles, gray wolves, sharptail sparrows, and other Species in Greatest Conservation Need as listed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.</p> <p>The conservation easement protects these conservation values by prohibiting division of the property, limiting residential and agricultural use, and requiring that management be in accordance with a management plan approved by the Land Trust.</p>
Easement Recorded in LCCMR office:	Yes

Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	Stewardship	\$15,000.00	171.00	8.00	78.00	57.00	169.00	0.00

Project Name:	Blackhoof River
Tract:	Schantz-Hansen
Project Area:	5 - Lower St. Louis River Township: 48, Range: 17, Section: 28
Description:	<p>This 248-acre property in Carlton County protects approximately 5,688 feet of shoreline along both sides of the Blackhoof River. The property contains a mix of forest, wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands that provide significant habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife, including several species in greatest conservation need.</p> <p>The conservation easement limits residential use and division of the property. It prohibits agricultural use and other uses that are inconsistent with preservation of the conservation values of the property. Management is required to be in accordance with a plan approved by the Land Trust.</p>
Easement Recorded in LCCMR office:	Yes

Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	Stewardship	\$15,000.00	248.00	17.00	127.00	104.00	0.00	5,688.00

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3A: Shoreland Protection Program - Minnesota Land Trust

Project Name: Encampment River
Tract: Jaeger
Project Area: 5 - Lower St. Louis River
Township: 53, Range: 10, Section: 3

Description: This 88-acre property (also known as the "Encampment Forest" project) in Lake County is located approximately one mile from Lake Superior within the Land Trust's North Shore Critical Landscape. The protected parcel is adjacent to a large property owned by the Encampment Forest Association.

The property consists of mature conifer forest, with black ash lowlands and wetlands along the Encampment River and one of its tributaries. The property contains 2,100 feet of shoreline along both sides of the Encampment River and 450 feet of shoreline along both sides of its tributary.

The conservation easement protects these conservation values by prohibiting agricultural use and division of the property. Residential use is limited. Management is required to be in accordance with a management plan approved by the Land Trust.

Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: Yes

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Grassland Acres</i>	<i>Woodland Acres</i>	<i>Wetland Acres</i>	<i>Shoreline Feet</i>	<i>Riparian Feet</i>
ENTF	Stewardship	\$15,000.00	40.00	0.00	34.09	5.45	0.00	1,176.82
Other Funds	Easement Acquisition Costs	\$18,000.00	48.00	0.00	40.91	6.55	0.00	1,412.18
Total:		\$33,000.00	88.00	0.00	150.00	12.00	0.00	2,589.00

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3A: Shoreland Protection Program - Minnesota Land Trust

Project Name: Lake Superior
Tract: Blacklock Nature Sanctuary
Project Area: 5 - Lower St. Louis River
Township: 55, Range: 8, Section: 28

Description: Located in Lake County, this property lies along the north shore of Lake Superior, immediately to the northeast of the entrance to Split Rock Lighthouse State Park.

It consists primarily of forest and cobblestone beach along Lake Superior. The property is within an area ranked as high biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey for its Aspen-Birch Hardwood Forest and Dry Bedrock Shore native plant communities. There also is a primitive campsite for the Lake Superior Water Trail on the beach area, and the Gitchi-Gami State Trail passes along the property.

The conservation easement was purchased for \$125,000, an amount well below fair-market value. A portion of the purchase price came from the 2009 HCP grant. The remainder of the funds for the purchase price and easement stewardship came from the 2010 HCP grant (listed as "State Funds" in the funding summary below).

The easement protects the conservation values of the property by prohibiting division of the property, prohibiting agricultural use, and limiting residential use. The easement also requires that the primitive campsite be available to the public as long as the Lake Superior Water Trail continues to exist.

**Easement Recorded
in LCCMR office:** Yes

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Grassland Acres</i>	<i>Woodland Acres</i>	<i>Wetland Acres</i>	<i>Shoreline Feet</i>	<i>Riparian Feet</i>
ENTF	Easement Acquisition Costs	\$78,780.00	1.32	0.04	1.20	0.00	193.55	0.00
Other	Donated Easement Value	\$515,000.00	8.65	0.27	7.86	0.00	1,265.28	0.00
State Funds	Easement Acquisition Costs	\$46,120.00	0.77	0.02	0.70	0.00	113.31	0.00
State Funds	Stewardship	\$15,000.00	0.25	0.01	0.23	0.00	36.85	0.00
Total:		\$654,900.00	11.00	0.34	40.00	0.00	1,609.00	0.00

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Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 6
Habitat Conservation Partnership

3A: Shoreland Protection Program - Minnesota Land Trust

Project Name:	Lake Elysian
Tract:	Jewison
Project Area:	10 - Southern Lakes
	Township: 108, Range: 24, Section: 15
Description:	<p>The Lake Elysian project is located on the eastern side of Lake Elysian, approximately 15 miles east of Mankato in Waseca County. The property lies in an area where two ecological subsections, Oak Savanna and Big Woods, come together, and as such, the property embodies qualities of each ecological subsection.</p> <p>The natural attributes of the property include the undeveloped shoreline and floodplain forest, which provide near-shore habitat for the great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, great egret, American white pelican and bald eagle.</p> <p>The conservation easement protects these attributes by prohibiting residential buildings and structures, limiting agricultural uses, and prohibiting any other activities inconsistent with protecting the property's conservation features.</p>
Easement Recorded in LCCMR office:	Yes

Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	Stewardship	\$15,000.00	48.00	4.00	14.00	5.00	3,162.00	0.00

Easement Totals (By Funding Type)

Funding Type:	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	\$138,780.00	508.32	29.04	304.00	171.45	3,524.55	6,864.82
Other Funds	\$18,000.00	48.00	0.00	40.91	6.55	0.00	1,412.18
State Funds	\$61,120.00	1.03	0.03	0.93	0.00	150.16	0.00
Other	\$515,000.00	8.65	0.34	7.86	0.00	1,265.28	0.00
Total	\$732,900.00	566.00	29.34	304.00	178.00	4,940.00	8,277.00

Work Program Expenditures (Not Attributable to Specific Projects)

FundingType	Category	Amount	Description
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$59,977.00	Salaries and related benefits for MLT and contract staff working on contacting landowners, negotiating conservation easements and completing all aspects of easement projects. Because of the large number of potential conservation projects involved in this grant and because many projects initiated or worked on under the grant are not actually completed in this phase of the project, the Land Trust does not allocate salaries to specific conservation easement projects.

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3A: Shoreland Protection Program - Minnesota Land Trust

ENTF	Professional Services	\$8,894.00	Title work, project specific mapping for prospective and completed projects, film, recording fees and other miscellaneous acquisition expenses related to projects pursued under this grant. Because of the large number of potential conservation projects involved, the Land Trust does not allocate these expenses to specific conservation easement projects.
ENTF	Travel	\$2,349.00	Travel to evaluate sites, visit with landowners, and complete project requirements.
Total:		\$71,220.00	

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

Funding Type	Amount
ENTF:	\$71,220.00
Total:	\$71,220.00

Work Program Expenditures Breakdown

Funding Type:	Easement Projects	Not Attributable to Specific Projects	Total
ENTF	\$138,780.00	\$71,220.00	\$210,000.00
Other Funds	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
Partner's State Leveraged Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$515,000.00	\$0.00	\$515,000.00
Total	\$732,900.00	\$71,220.00	\$804,120.00

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)

Attachment A: Budget Detail

Project Title:

Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership--Phase 6
Minnesota Land Trust - Shoreland Protection Program -3(a)

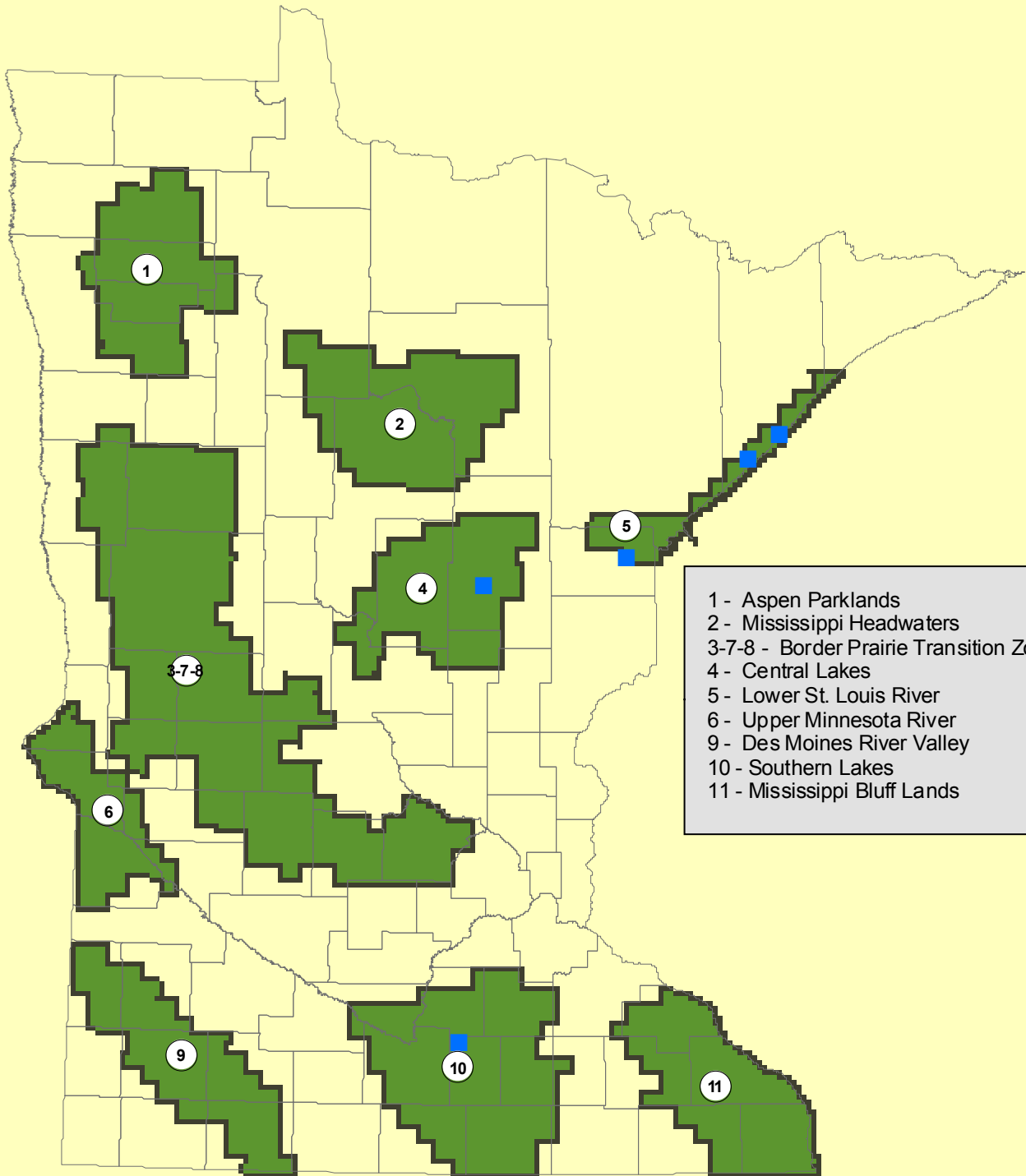
Project Manager: Sarah Strommen

ENTF Funds: \$210,000

	Result 1 -- Acquiring CEs - Shoreland Protection Program : BUDGET (adjusted/approved June 2011)	FINAL BUDGET 30, 2011	June	AMOUNT SPENT AS OF June 30, 2011	BALANCE AS OF June 30, 2011
BUDGET ITEM					
MLT and Contract Personnel:	\$57,326.00	\$59,977.00		\$59,977.00	\$0.00
Wages and benefits: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for conservation directors or other land protection staff, staff attorney and other support staff.				\$46,837.00	
Land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation and legal review services				\$13,140.00	
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$2,349.00		\$2,349.00	\$0.00
Easement acquisition costs	\$87,674.00	\$87,674.00		\$87,674.00	\$0.00
Purchase price of conservation easement(s)					
Title work, title insurance, and closing fees, etc					
Maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS)					
Other (including appraisals and surveys)					
Easement stewardship	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00		\$60,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00		\$210,000.00	\$0.00

Habitat Conservation Partnership Shoreland Protection Program

3A



- 1 - Aspen Parklands
- 2 - Mississippi Headwaters
- 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone
- 4 - Central Lakes
- 5 - Lower St. Louis River
- 6 - Upper Minnesota River
- 9 - Des Moines River Valley
- 10 - Southern Lakes
- 11 - Mississippi Bluff Lands

Restorations Easements Acquisitions

Attachment A: Budget Detail

Project Title:

Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership--Phase 6
Minnesota Land Trust - Shoreland Protection Program -3(a)

Project Manager: Sarah Strommen

ENTF Funds: \$210,000

	Result 1 -- Acquiring CEs - Shoreland Protection Program : BUDGET	Result 1 -- Acquiring CEs - Shoreland Protection Program : ADJUSTED BUDGET as of June 1, 2011	AMOUNT SPENT AS OF April 30, 2011	BALANCE AS OF April 30, 2011
BUDGET ITEM				
<u>MLT and Contract Personnel:</u>	\$70,000.00	\$57,326.00	\$42,326.00	\$15,000.00
<u>Wages and benefits: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for conservation directors or other land protection staff, staff attorney and other support staff.</u>			\$34,656.00	
<u>Land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation and legal review services</u>			\$7,670.00	
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,348.00	\$2,652.00
Easement acquisition costs	\$75,000.00	\$87,674.00	\$7,656.00	\$80,018.00
Purchase price of conservtion easement(s)				
Title work, title insurance, and closing fees, etc				
Maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS)				
Other (including appraisals and surveys)				
Easement stewardship	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$15,000.00
TOTAL	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$97,330.00	\$112,670.00