

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

3C: Shallow Lake Easements - Ducks Unlimited

Project Manager:	Jon Schneider	Fund:	Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
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Total Biennial Project Budget

Result	ENTF Balance	ENTF Funds Spent	ENTF Balance	Other Funds Proposed	Other Funds Spent
Easement	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$103,532
Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$103,532

Work Program Summary

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The objective of this project was to accelerate Ducks Unlimited (DU) efforts to help improve and protect shallow lakes managed for waterfowl. To protect shallow lakes, DU worked with private shallow lake shoreline landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on managed shallow lakes prioritized by DU for their importance to waterfowl and threat of development. The goal was to permanently protect at least 200 shallow lake shoreland acres.

DU land protection staff worked with several private landowners on multiple shallow lakes over the course of this two year grant, and eventually began negotiations with five landowners on four different shallow lakes who expressed a desire to proceed with appraisals and discuss easement terms. Through that process, two of the five easement negotiations were successful and became viable land protection deals. DU subsequently proceeded to close on a fully purchased conservation easement on 76 acres on Fish Lake in Stearns County in February 2011. DU then proceeded to seek approval to split the cost of a second larger easement of 150 acres on Garden and Johnson Lakes in Crow Wing County using the remaining funds from this 2009 Trust Fund appropriation (60%) and our 2010 Trust Fund appropriation (40%). Overall, DU successfully closed two conservation easements through this grant and permanently protected 226 acres in total, which was slightly more than our 200-acre goal.

The total project cost to protect shallow lakes through conservation easements was \$353,532, which includes reimbursement of \$250,000 from the Trust Fund through this grant plus the expenditure of \$61,532 in Other Funds by DU and \$42,000 donated to DU for easement stewardship.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This grant helped DU accelerate the protection of shallow lakes by working with private landowners to secure conservation easements and promote conservation easement concepts. Conservation easements with private landowners are sensitive land deals that don't lend themselves to widespread publicity, however, DU has recognized individual landowners and has publicized our work to protect shallow lake shorelines and shoreland locally through local conservation groups, soil and water districts, and tribal organizations supportive of our work to protect wild rice lakes. DU also informed the foundations supporting our Living Lakes Initiative of our conservation accomplishments. The accomplishment of securing two new permanent conservation easements through this grant has helped encourage other private landowners to consider working with DU to protect their shorelines, and news of our progress may be further disseminated through DU news releases and articles DU publications in the future.

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Easement Activities

Project Name: Donovan-Posch on Garden & Johnson Lakes
Tract: 1
Project Area: 2 - Mississippi Headwaters
Township: 135, Range: 28, Section: 9

Description: DU purchased a permanent conservation easement on 150 acres from the Donovan-Posch landowner partnership on Garden and Johnson Lakes, two wild rice lakes west of Nisswa in Crow Wing County, to protect their shoreland through a permanent conservation easement. An appraisal determining the value of the easement at \$132,000 was received and negotiations began in December, 2010. After to purchase the easement at a bargain sale rate failed, agreement to purchase the easement at full appraised price was reached in April 2011. Purchase of the easement using a combination of both 2009 and 2010 grant funds was approved by LCCMR staff in May. DU and the landowners agreed to endow future easement monitoring stewardship and enforcement costs with private funds, and DU commits to monitoring the easement annually and reporting to LCCMR as required. DU closed the easement in mid June, 2011. Purchase price was \$132,000, with 66% of costs being funded from our 2009 grant and the other 34% of the costs being paid from our 2010 grant as per LCCMR staff approval (\$52,977). The initial land acquisition report for this tract, # 11-035-002, and a copy of the recorded easement was submitted to LCCMR staff on July 29, 2011.

**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	\$81,586.00	78.67	0.00	25.17	53.49	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$3,240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Professional Services	\$7,931.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$5,257.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Stewardship	\$21,000.00	20.25	0.00	6.48	13.77	0.00	0.00
Total:		\$119,014.00	98.92	0.00	31.65	67.26	0.00	0.00

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Project Name: Kauller #2 on Fish Lake
Tract: 2
Project Area: 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone
Township: 123, Range: 35, Section: 33

Description: DU negotiated the purchase of a permanent conservation easement with the Kauller LLC to protect 76 acres of land on Fish Lake in Stearns County. The easement value was appraised at \$91,000 in fall 2010, and landowners declined a bargain sale offer for several months before DU agreed to purchase at the full appraised value. DU closed on the easement in February 2011. The easement protects 6 acres of wetlands and 70 acres of existing CRP land in southwest Stearns County. This new easement funded through the ENRTF on Kauller Tract 2 will be the second easement DU holds on Fish Lake and will further our efforts to protect all shoreland around Fish Lake from future subdivision and development. DU and the landowners agreed to endow future easement monitoring stewardship and enforcement costs with \$21,000 of private funds. DU commits to annual monitoring this easement and reporting to LCCMR staff as required. The initial land acquisition report #11-145-003 and a copy of the recorded easement was submitted to LCCMR staff on July 29, 2011.

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	\$91,768.00	61.85	56.96	0.00	4.88	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$5,942.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Professional Services	\$5,775.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$3,933.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Stewardship	\$21,000.00	14.15	13.04	0.00	1.12	0.00	0.00
Total:		\$128,418.00	76.00	70.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00

Project Name: Papenheim on Lake Christina
Tract: 1
Project Area: 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone
Township: 130, Range: 40, Section: 4

Description: Ducks Unlimited continued attempts to secure an easement on the 170-acre Papenheim property that contains over one mile of Lake Christina shoreline. Following several years of negotiation and two appraisals, DU was hopeful that a workable option was in place that would protect the property and provide for the needs of the landowner. However, the landowner is hesitant, and DU continues to discuss options for configuration of easement restrictions that protects the lake but also allows the landowner to retain some farm land and allow for his children to build on the property too without subdivision. DU will continue working with the landowner through our 2010 Trust Fund grant and hopefully agree on mutually acceptable easement terms.

Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No

<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	Personnel Expenditures	\$420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$784.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:		\$1,204.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Project Name: Radunz Easement on Cedar Lake
Project Area: 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone
Township: 118, Range: 30, Section: 33

Description: Ducks Unlimited is working to purchase the 31-acre Brian Radunz easement located in Meeker County on 2,000-acre Cedar Lake prior to June 30, 2010 protecting over 1,400 feet of shoreline from subdivision and development. Cedar Lake is a large shallow lake that supports a diverse shoreline boundary containing numerous bays and points and is one of the few shallow lakes in Minnesota with multiple islands (11 total). DU currently holds one 52-acre easement on the lake and is also working to secure an additional 49-acre easement on the McLeod County side through a NAWCA grant. The Radunz easement will protect over 6 acres of palustrine wetland, 15 acres of land enrolled in CRP, and seven acres of woodland comprised of mature species common to the Big Woods subsection of the eastern deciduous forest. An appraisal was received, and negotiations began in December 2010. However, the landowner has expressed great disappointment in the appraised value of the easement, and negotiations have stalled. DU may seek a second appraisal in our 2010 grant and continue negotiations.

Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No

<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	Personnel Expenditures	\$4,521.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Professional Services	\$7,451.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$4,893.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:		\$16,865.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Project Name:	Strohmeier Easement on Lake Christina
Project Area:	3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone Township: 130, Range: 40, Section: 17
Description:	DU is working to close a purchased permanent conservation easement on the 34-acre Strohmeier property on 4,000-acre Lake Christina in Douglas County that will protect 1,700 feet of shoreline from subdivision and development. Lake Christina is one of the largest shallow lakes in the prairie and transition region of Minnesota and is a key waterfowl staging area as well as an important habitat for many other migratory bird species. Ducks Unlimited currently holds six easements on the lake that protect over six miles of shoreline on Lake Christina and Lake Anka. The Strohmeier easement will protect 10 acres of wetlands, 16 acres of woods and low brush, and 8 acres of CRP that supports seeded native grasses. The Strohmeier easement directly adjoins the Carlson-Cunz DU conservation easement and will bring the total of contiguous land protection in that area to 237 acres of grass, woods and wetlands. Negotiations are underway with the landowner regarding reserved rights, and the landowner has requested more time to contemplate his land use plans and options for the property before an appraisal can be ordered. DU will remain engaged and attempt to continue negotiations with the landowner in summer or fall 2011 under our 2010 LCCMR grant.
Easement Recorded in LCCMR office:	No

Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$2,426.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Professional Services	\$490.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$2,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:		\$5,516.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Easement Totals (By Funding Type)

Funding Type:	Funding Amount	Prorated Acres	Grassland Acres	Woodland Acres	Wetland Acres	Shoreline Feet	Riparian Feet
ENTF	\$211,550.00	140.52	56.96	25.17	58.38	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	\$59,467.00	34.40	13.04	6.48	14.89	0.00	0.00
Total	\$271,017.00	174.92	70.00	31.65	73.26	0.00	0.00

Work Program Expenditures (Not Attributable to Specific Projects)

FundingType	Category	Amount	Description
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$26,941.00	DU biological land protection staff conduct easement outreach and promotion to private landowners on key shallow lakes managed for wildlife by Minnesota DNR in an attempt to develop interest in conservation easements for subsequent negotiation.
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$11,509.00	DU manager time and in-state travel expense to coordinate, supervise, and administer this grant.

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Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$25,980.00	DU biological land protection staff conduct easement outreach and promotion to private landowners on key shallow lakes managed for wildlife by Minnesota DNR in an attempt to develop interest in conservation easements for subsequent negotiation.
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$18,085.00	DU manager time and in-state travel expense to coordinate, supervise, and administer this grant.
Total:		\$82,515.00	

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

Funding Type	Amount
ENTF:	\$38,450.00
Other Funds:	\$44,065.00
Total:	\$82,515.00

Work Program Expenditures Breakdown

Funding Type:	Easement Projects	Not Attributable to Specific Projects	Total
ENTF	\$211,550.00	\$38,450.00	\$250,000.00
Other Funds	\$59,467.00	\$44,065.00	\$103,532.00
Total	\$271,017.00	\$82,515.00	\$353,532.00

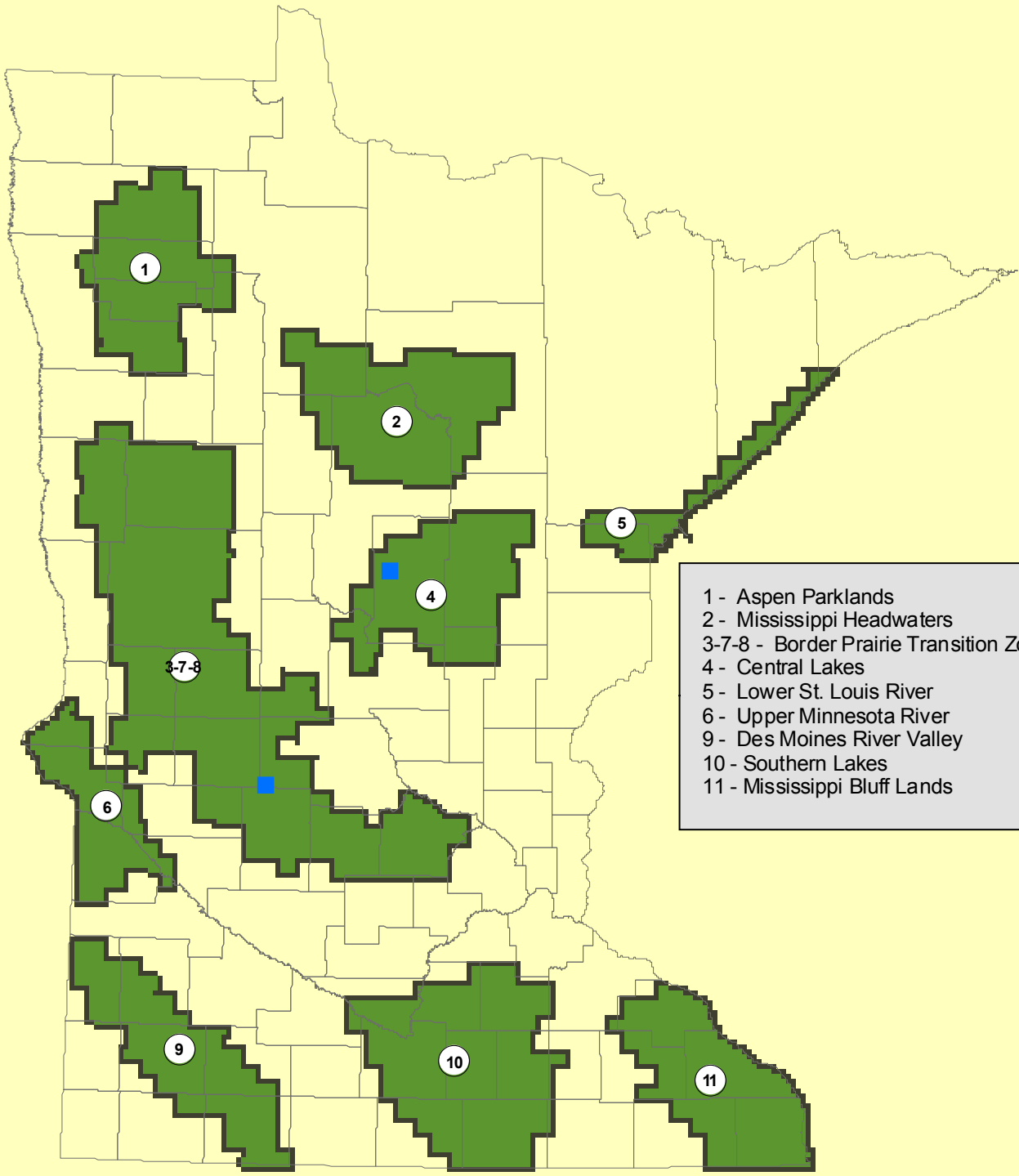
Funding Type Definitions

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 for 2009 Projects - Summary and Budget Page									
Project Title:		Shallow Lake Enhancement (2c) & Easements (3c) Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Phase 6)							
Project Manager Name:		Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited (DU)							
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 475,000									
July 2011 FINAL REPORT									
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent	Balance	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL BALANCE
	Shallow Lake Enhancement			Living Lakes Easements					
BUDGET ITEM									
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits for DU biologist (1 FTE), engineers (1 FTE), protection (1 FTE) field staff, and program manager (0.10 FTE) for grant administration/coordination (up to 4% of grant).	100,000	100,000	0	50,000	50,000	0	150,000	150,000	0
CONTRACTS: construction of water structures, purchase of easements, contracted professional services such as soils investigation, title clearance, appraisal, legal work, and baseline documentation	115,000	115,000	0	195,000		0	310,000	115,000	0
Professional/technical (consultant engineering and environmental services)					0		0	0	0
Land rights acquisition (easements)					173,353		0	173,353	0
Professional Services for Acquisition					21,647		0	21,647	0
Construction (water control structures)							0	0	0
TRAVEL: in-state for biologists and engineers	10,000	10,000	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	15,000	0
OTHER (easement monitoring stewardship)				0	0	0	0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$475,000	\$ 475,000	\$ -

Habitat Conservation Partnership Shallow Lake Easements

3C



- 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
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