

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V: Scientific and Natural Area Restoration and Acquisition (4f) – (2.7 & 3.6)

PROJECT MANAGER: Margaret (Peggy) Booth

AFFILIATION: DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$646,955

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Nearly 150 acres of high quality native habitat threatened by urban development was acquired and added to two metro Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). First, 80 acres were acquired (36.7 acres pro-rated to this appropriation) and added to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. The addition contains native oak savanna and prairie and increases this SNA to 267 acres. Thus, more than half of this largest remaining prairie complex in Dakota County is protected for its 13 resident rare species (including 3 snake and 2 butterfly species) and for public use, including hiking and nature observation. Second, about 70 acres – including public fishing frontage on the Credit River – was acquired (6.2 acres pro-rated to this appropriation) and added to the Savage Fen SNA in Scott County. These sites offer urban residents close-to-home nature-based recreation, including a new archery hunting opportunity on 300 acres at Savage Fen SNA.

SNA restoration and enhancement activities were completed on 187 acres at 13 SNAs in 7 counties in the greater metropolitan area. For example, a 55-acre prairie was reconstructed (restored) at Lost Valley Prairie SNA with the help of volunteers and a Sentence-to-Serve crew using seed collected on site by hand and mechanically harvested by the SNA crew. Almost 100 acres was prescribed burned at 5 SNAs. About 34 acres received invasive species control actions, including work by Conservation Corps Minnesota. These activities result in better habitat for the SNAs' rare features and improved quality for users of SNAs.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information about Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) sites, including those SNAs with new acquisition, restoration, enhancement and development activities through this appropriation, is available on the DNR website (www.mndnr.gov/snas). DNR-sponsored volunteer events, such as those involved in the Lost Valley Prairie, are regularly posted at:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/sna/index. Both of the acquisition projects received publicity in local newspapers and in partner organization newsletters. Specifically, Savage Fen SNA acquisition was publicized in the *Shakopee Valley News* and in the Trust for Public Land's electronic newsletter and electronic invite. The Hastings Sand Coulee SNA acquisition was referenced in articles in the *Hastings Gazette* and the Friends of the Mississippi River website.

Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund 2008 Final Work Program and 2009 Final Work Program

Date of Report: August 25, 2011
Final Report

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

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

Project Manager: Margaret (Peggy) Booth
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Web Page address: www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas

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

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$358,000	\$646,955	\$1,004,955
Minus Amount Spent:	\$358,000	\$645,397	\$1,003,397
Equal Balance:	\$0	\$1,558	\$1,558

Legal Citation:

M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a) 2.5 & 3.6

Appropriation Language:

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

standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement.

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

Appropriation Language:

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fifth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$2,185,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,190,000 is for agreements as follows: \$380,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$90,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$155,000 with Great River Greening; \$250,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$90,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources.

Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. To the maximum extent practical, consistent with contractual easement or fee acquisition obligations, the recipients shall utilize staff resources to identify future projects and shall maximize the implementation of biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

M.L. 2009 – FINAL ABSTRACT

Nearly 150 acres of high quality native habitat threatened by urban development was acquired and added to two metro Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). First, 80 acres were acquired (36.7 acres pro-rated to this appropriation) and added to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. The addition contains native oak savanna and prairie and increases this SNA to 267 acres. Thus, more than half of this largest remaining prairie complex in Dakota County is protected for its 13 resident rare species (including 3 snake and 2 butterfly species) and for public use, including hiking and nature observation. Second, about 70 acres – including public fishing frontage on the Credit River – was acquired (6.2 acres pro-rated to this appropriation) and added to the Savage Fen SNA in Scott County. These sites offer urban residents close-to-home nature-based recreation, including a new archery hunting opportunity on 300 acres at Savage Fen SNA.

SNA restoration and enhancement activities were completed on 187 acres at 13 SNAs in 7 counties in the greater metropolitan area. For example, a 55-acre prairie was reconstructed (restored) with the help of volunteers and a Sentence-to-Serve crew using seed collected on site by hand and mechanically harvested by the SNA crew. Almost 100 acres was prescribed burned at 5 SNAs. About 34 acres received invasive species control actions, including work by Conservation Corps Minnesota. These activities result in better habitat for the SNAs' rare features and improved quality for users of SNAs.

M.L. 2008 – FINAL ABSTRACT

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

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: SNA Restoration & Enhancement

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

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

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

- white pine-hard forest restoration (e.g. deer enclosure construction, seed collection, and/or propagation) at Boot Lake SNA (Anoka Co) and/or Falls Creek SNA (Washington Co).

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

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

Activities for restoration, development, and native habitat enhancement purposes and to bring sites acquired up to minimum standards will be carried out by SNA program or other Department crews, Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC), Sentence to Service personnel, volunteers, and/or contractors. This includes activities, such as seed collection, site preparation, planting, establishment period maintenance, removal and treatment of exotics, control of woody encroachment, site clean-up, signing, deer enclosures and other fencing, prescribed burns, and updating of management plans or completion of new adaptive management plans for targeted sites. Opportunities will be cultivated to complete cooperative projects with other MeCC partners with results reported for all non-duplicated acres with activities accomplished through these funds (e.g. acres of exotics removed or treated, miles of burn breaks installed or acres of prescribed burns, acres of seed harvest, acres planted, etc. All restoration will use seeds or plants of a local ecotype, collected whenever possible from onsite or within 25 miles.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$61,335	\$65,000	\$126,335
Amount Spent:	\$61,335	\$64,580	\$125,915
Balance:	\$0	\$420	\$420

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
1. M.L. 2008: 20 acres restoration activities (includes restoration/reconstruction, invasives species control & woody encroachment removal, prescribed burning, and site development)	June 30, 2009	\$61,335 <i>(revised to reflect final \$s spent)</i>
2. M.L. 2009: ~10 acres restoration/reconstruction	June 30, 2011	\$11,000
3. M.L. 2009: ~20 acres invasive species control & woody encroachment removal	June 30, 2011	\$12,000
4. M.L. 2009: ~120 acres prescribed burning	June 30, 2011	\$24,000 <i>(allocation increased)</i>
5. M.L. 2009: site development at ~ 4 SNAs	June 30, 2011	\$7,000

6. M.L. 2009: ~ 2 management plan (updates or new)	March 1, 2011	\$11,000
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Note: 2009 \$s increased primarily to reflect additional \$5,000 from DNR Metro Greenways as per work program amendment.

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

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

M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary: SNA restoration and enhancement activities completed include: prairie reconstruction, prescribed burning, and invasives treatment on 187 acres; development projects on 4 sites (signs, fencing, site cleanup, etc), and one new Adaptive Management Plan and Inventory – resulting in native habitat enhancement and site improvements at 13 SNAs in 7 counties – see Table 1b and the map in Figure 1.

Specifically, a 55-acre prairie reconstruction project was completed at Lost Valley Prairie SNA involving volunteers, Sentence-to-Serve, and SNA staff harvesting on-site seed by hand and with ATV and flail vac equipment; seeding this seed both with equipment broadcasting it across the snow and also by hand; and initial mowing. Invasive species control activities included 18 acres of tree-shrub removal/treatment (primarily buckthorn) on 18 acres at 8 sites; and pulling or spraying herbaceous/seedling invasives on 16 acres at 4 sites. Prescribed burns were completed on 98 acres at 5 sites. Also, additional burn plans were completed, burn breaks installed, and partner burns assisted – but not counted here. Site development work at 4 sites included: almost 1 mile of fence repair to prevent ATV use and habitat damage; and installation of boundary signs at the new addition at Lost Valley Prairie SNA. Finally, this funding contributed towards completion and approval of 16 burn-unit plans; and completion of one comprehensive management plan. The later comprehensive, 80+ page Adaptive Management Plan and Inventory for Hastings Sand Coulee was completed by Friends of the Mississippi River (contracted through a competitive bid process). It was targeted due to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA’s substantial expansion (see below) and because the SNA did not previously have a full management plan.

Result 2: SNA Acquisition

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

Through the M.L. 2009 appropriation, about 30 acres of high quality native habitat within the Metro Corridors mapped corridors will be acquired and designated as

Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). This will protect rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, and geological features, and provide for their public use for scientific study, education, and nature observation.

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

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

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$296,665	\$581,955	\$878,620
Amount Spent:	\$296,665	\$580,817	\$877,482
Balance:	\$0	\$1,138	\$1,138

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. M.L. 2008: 34.6 acres acquired & designated SNA <i>Note: \$ reduced to 65% original & acres reduced to 72% original as per work program amendment moving \$s to DNR Fisheries</i>	June 30, 2009	\$296,665 <i>(revised)</i>
2. M.L. 2009: 40 acres acquired & designated SNA <i>Note: acres & \$s increased to reflect additional \$231,955 from DNR Metro Greenways as per work program amendment</i>	June 30, 2011	\$581,955 <i>(revised)</i>

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

M.L. 2008 Final Report Summary The final outcome of Result 2 (2008 appropriation) is acquisition of a 47.9 acre parcel (34.58 acres pro-rated to this 2008

appropriation – including all transaction and staff costs spent paid for with this 2008 appropriation for all acquisition projects pursued under this appropriation). Specifically, acquisition of the 47.9 acre parcel featuring white pine-hardwood forest of high biodiversity significance and 1450' of Horseshoe Lake shoreline in southeast Isanti County closed and was designated as the Twin Lakes SNA on June 28-29, 2010. In addition to monies through this 2008 appropriation, \$114,250 of federal State Wildlife Grant funds contributed to the landowner payment for the Twin Lakes site.

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

M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary: Additions to two SNAs totaling 148.5 acres (42.9 acres pro-rated to this 2009 appropriation based upon landowner payments only – amounts and funding source of all transaction costs will be reported separately). First, in November 2010, at Savage Fen SNA in Scott County, DNR cooperated with the Trust for Public Land to acquire a 68.5-acre addition (6.2 acres pro-rated to this 2009 appropriation to the SNA – see table below) which features MCBS-mapped wetland communities which are integrally part of the calcareous fen complex, MCBS-mapped hardwood forest bluffs above the fen complex, and frontage on the Credit River. This addition to the SNA and a transfer of land from USFWS to DNR SNA is enlarging Savage Fen SNA to about 300 acres – which through a public hearing process – is open in 2011 to archery hunting for its habitat improvement (herbivory control) and recreation opportunity.

Second, using in part about \$232,000 reallocated from Metro Greenways 2009 appropriation, an acquisition of another SNA addition was completed in June 2011. Specifically, the DNR acquired in an 80-acre addition (36.7 acres pro-rated to this 2009 appropriation to the SNA – see table below) to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA in Dakota County. The parcel acquired features MCBS-mapped dry sand-gravel prairie and a large (but degraded) area of native oak savanna.

This funding was also used to initiate another 25.6-acre addition to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA done in cooperation with the Friends of the Mississippi River that ended up being acquired with the 2009 ENRTF SNA statewide appropriation. These two new additions to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA along with the transfer of about 78 acres from WMA to SNA, brings the SNA to a total of 267 acres – over half of the largest remaining prairie complex in Dakota County which is home to 13 rare species including 3 snakes and 2 butterflies.

Through this funding, an offer was made in 2010 on an addition to Seminary Fen SNA, but turned down by the landowner. The balance remaining in this appropriation for Result 2 (\$1,138) is because of lower costs than anticipated for the Hastings Sand Coulee addition's attorney general and closing costs.

Savage Fen SNA addition			
Total acres acquired as SNA:		68.49	
Funding Source	Landowner Payment	%	Pro-Rated Acres
OHF- Big Rivers Partnership (TPL)	\$ 1,500,000.00	43.0%	29.4
ENRTF- TPL MeCC 2009	\$ 552,000.00	15.8%	10.8
ENRTF- TPL MeCC 2010	\$ 490,000.00	14.0%	9.6
TPL-Landowner Subtotal	\$ 2,542,000.00		
RIM	\$ 300,000.00	8.6%	5.9
Bonding - SNA 2006	\$ 289,506.55	8.3%	5.7
ENRTF- SNA MeCC 2009	\$ 315,000.00	9.0%	6.2
ENRTF- SNA 2010	\$ 43,493.45	1.2%	0.9
DNR Subtotal	\$ 948,000.00		
TOTAL	\$ 3,490,000.00	100.0%	68.5

Hastings Sand Coulee SNA - Holst addition			
Total acres acquired as SNA:		80	
Funding Source	Landowner Payment	%	Pro-Rated Acres
Dakota County - FNAP	\$ 50,000.00	10.4%	8.3
Non-State Subtotal	\$ 50,000.00		
Bonding - SNA 2008 Prairie	\$ 61,800.00	12.9%	10.3
ENRTF- SNA MeCC 2009	\$ 220,000.00	45.8%	36.7
ENRTF- SNA 2009	\$ 148,200.00	30.9%	24.7
DNR Subtotal	\$ 430,000.00		
TOTAL	\$ 480,000.00	100.0%	80.0

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

M.L. 2008

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

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

Development and Restoration: \$2,945 (materials and supplies, such as fencing, signs, etc and instate travel needed for restoration and development work by crews)

Acquisition, including easements: \$268,650 (towards fee acquisition of about 34 acres) PLUS \$24,824 of related real estate transaction costs for this and

other projects under this appropriation and \$133 of acquisition related instate travel expenses – not including personnel listed above)

Other: NA

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$358,000 [reduced from \$515,000 with \$157,000 transferred to DNR Fisheries].

M.L. 2009

Personnel: \$62,746 (for classified and unclassified SNA program & other DNR staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.06 FTE acquisition specialist; up to ~0.04 FTE management plan writer- coordinator – new position; up to ~ 0.2 FTE specialists and technicians; and ~ 0.3 FTE laborers and seasonal crews) – *including about \$5,000 transferred from DNR Metro Greenways.*

Contracts: \$6,903 (MCC and contractors selected through bid process to complete restoration and development projects and SNA adaptive management plan).

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$2,299 (truck & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts; materials and supplies, such as fencing, signs, gloves, PPE, chemical, etc.)

Acquisition, including easements: \$574,648 (towards fee acquisition of about 40 acres to be owned by DNR & designated SNA; including related real estate transaction costs for all projects initiated through this appropriation – *including addition majority of funds transferred from DNR Metro Greenways.*)

Travel: \$359 (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: \$646,955 s[increased from \$410,000 with \$236,945 transferred from DNR Metro Greenways].

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

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners:

M.L. 2008 & M.L. 2009

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

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

M.L. 2008 & M.L. 2009

Restoration/enhancement project work will be supplemented by bonding (estimated at \$100,000 not listed as match) and NGO partners using other state or non-state funds (not listed as match). Acquisitions under the M.L. 2008 appropriation are

expected to leverage non-state funding and/or landowner donations (estimated at \$125,000, listed in Table A of overall Metro Corridors proposal) and be supplemented as needed by state bonding (not listed as match). Funding sources used for acquisition projects done through these appropriations and pro-rated acreages will be reported in work program updates.

C. Spending History:

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

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

E. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

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

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

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

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

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

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

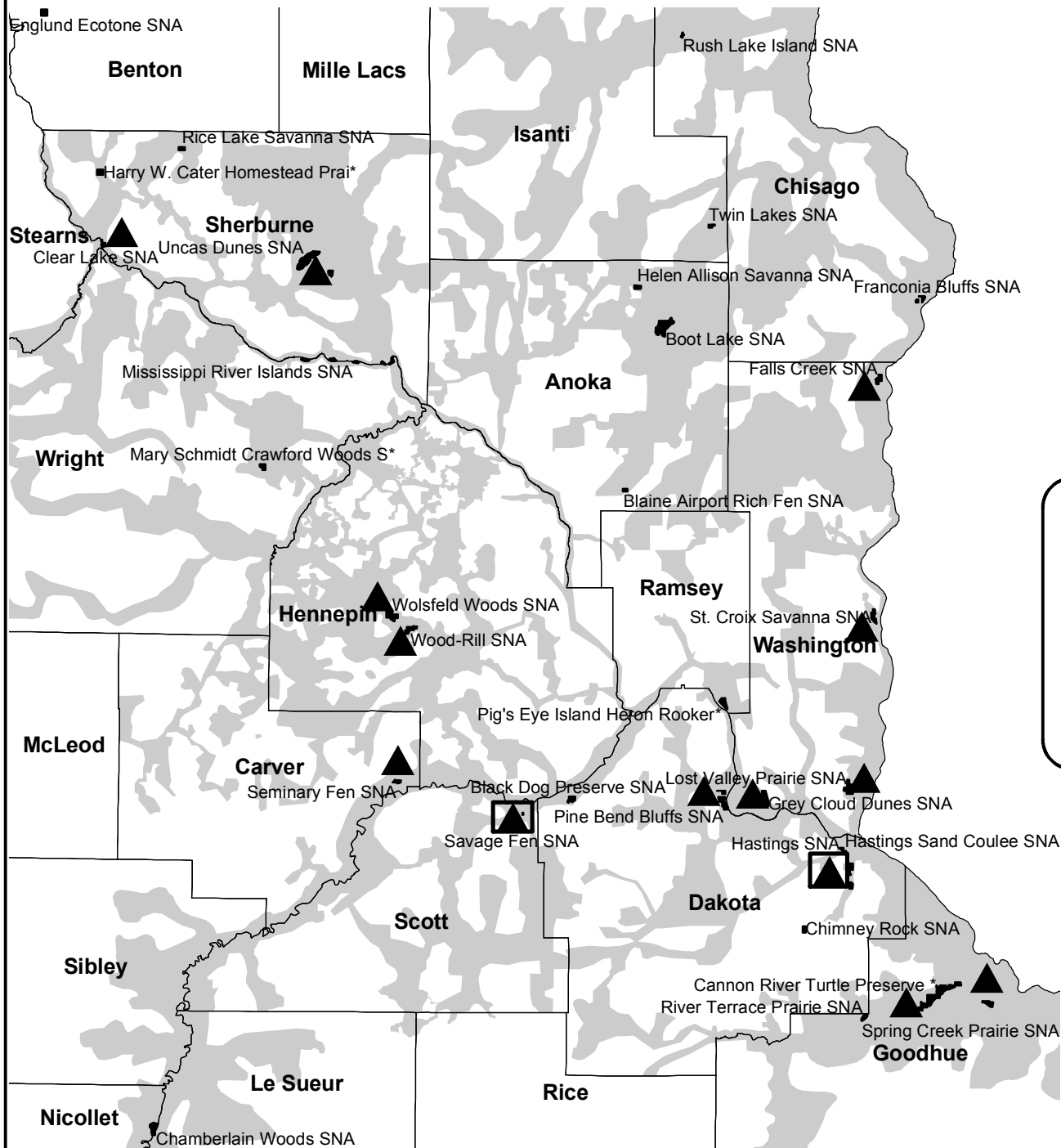
Attachment A: FINAL Budget Detail for 2009 Project			FINAL 8/19/11					
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase V: Scientific & Natural Area Restoration and Acquisition								
Project Manager Name: Margaret (Peggy) Booth								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 410,000 + 236,954.60 (fr Metro Greenways - MGW) = 646,954.60								
2009 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (6-30-11)	Balance (6-30-11)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (6-30-11)	Balance (6-30-11)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Restoration & Development			Acquisition & Designation				
BUDGET ITEM								
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits for classified and unclassified SNA program staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.06 FTE acquisition specialist; up to ~0.04 FTE management plan writer-coordinator – new position; up to ~ 0.2 FTE specialists and technicians; and ~ 0.3 FTE laborers and seasonal crews	55,498	55,498	0	7,248	7,248	0	62,746	1
Contracts								
Other contracts: MCC and contractors selected through bid process as needed to complete restoration and development projects and preparation of adaptive management plans	6,903	6,903	0			0	6,903	0
Non-capital Equipment / Tools: truck & equipment fleet charges & incidental parts	2,000	1,924	76	0	0	0	2,000	76
Land acquisition			0	535,000	535,000	0	535,000	0
Real Estate Transaction Costs (e.g. professional services, survey, AG, title, recording, etc)			0	39,648	38,510	1,138	39,648	1,138
Supplies: restoration & development materials and supplies, such as fencing, signs, gloves, PPE, chemical, etc.	299		299			0	299	299
Travel expenses in Minnesota	300	255	45	59	59	0	359	45
COLUMN TOTAL	\$65,000	\$64,580	\$420	\$581,955	\$580,817	\$1,138	646,955	1,558
	Note: the budget above has been adjusted with reductions in equipment (fleet) reduced from \$3500 to \$2000; acquisition from \$540K (post-MGW additional \$s) to \$535K; real estate costs from \$39,946 to \$39,648; supplies from \$2500 to \$299; & travel from \$1500 to \$359, and increases for staff from \$48,500 to \$62,746, and contracts from \$4000 to \$6903							

Table 1b. 2009 SNA - METRO CORRIDORS - Restoration & Development Activities - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FINAL REPORT

SNA Name	County	SITE COUNTED AS ENHANCED THROUGH THIS PROJECT (other sites - rows grayed out)	General Target Native Plant Community Type (Reconstruction)	Acres Completed - July 1, 2009 -June 30, 2011							COMMENTS (including regarding other work done, not measured in miles or acre)	
				Native Plant Community Reconstruction (acres)	Woody Encroachment-Invasives Removal (acres)	Prescribed Burning (acres)	Burn Break (miles) - not included in overall total	Non-Woody or Seeding Invasives Control (acres)	Boundary signs and fencing (miles)not included in overall total	Development		TOTAL (non-duplicated estimate)
Black Dog Preserve	Dakota		fen & prairie				1.0				0	Burn plan written and approved; NOT BURNED: conditions too wet & green to burn.
Boot Lake	Anoka		oak/white pine forest				1.0				0	Burn plan written and approved; NOT BURNED: not prescribed wind
Cannon R Turtle Prairie	Goodhue	1	floodplain forest		1	2	1.0				3	Two unit burn plans written and approved; 1 unit BURNED
Clear Lake	Sherburne	2								1	0	parking area moving & mgmt
Falls Creek	Washington	3	oak/pine forest							1	1	site cleanup & parking area mowing & mgmt
Grey Cloud Dunes	Washington	4			5	61	1.0		0.9	1	66	Two unit burn plans written and approved; BURNED IN 2010 (1 unit) & in 2011 (2 units); .9 miles fence repaired to prevent ATV use & habitat damage
Harry Cater Homestead	Sherburne					***					0	Burn plan written; other funding used for burn
Hastings Sand Coulee	Dakota	5	prairie		1	***					0	Two unit burn plans written and approved; burn done by contractor through FMR who counted acres; full management plan completed
Lost Valley Prairie	Washington	6	prairie	55	1	21	1.0		1.0		77	Two burn plans written and approved; BURNED IN 2010; new unit signed; seed harvest, planting & mowing.
Rice Lake Savanna	Sherburne		savanna			***	1.0				0	Burn plan written; other funding used for burn
Savage Fen	Scott	7							3		3	
Seminary Fen	Carver	8	savanna			***	0.5	3		1	3	Burn plan written and approved; other funding used for burn; site cleanup
Spring Creek Prairie	Goodhue	9			7	4	1.5				11	Two unit burn plans written and approved.
St. Croix Savanna	Washington	10	prairie		1	10	1.0	8			19	Three unit burn plans written and approved.
Uncas Dunes	Sherburne	11	savanna		***	***					0	SNA staff technical support for woody biomass project. Burn plan written & contractor assisted with burn (burn acres counted by GRG)
Wolsfeld Woods	Hennepin	12	maple-basswood forest		1			2			3	Includes MCC contract
Wood-Rill	Hennepin	13	maple-basswood forest		1						1	
TOTAL acres				55	18	98	9.0	16	1.9	4	187	

Figure 1. Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase V (2009)
 Scientific & Natural Areas - Restoration, Development & Acquisition



Legend

- ▲ Restoration and Development Sites
- SNA Acquisition Sites
- Metro Conservation Corridors
- Scientific and Natural Area Boundaries



