

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

PROJECT TITLE: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration (2.9)/ Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition (3.5)
Metropolitan Conservation Corridors

PROJECT MANAGER: Mike Halverson

AFFILIATION: MN DNR – Division of Fish & Wildlife

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f 2.9/3.5

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$500,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project had a two pronged focus. **Result 1** (4f2.9) focused on a trout stream habitat restoration project located within Vermillion River Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), in Dakota County. This stretch of the Vermillion River channel had been altered by ditching. **Result 2** (4f3.5) focused on securing fee title parcels on the Vermillion River in Dakota County and Eagle Creek in Scott County. Parcels include habitat linkages that provided environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, exhibit a high risk of development, supply angler access, and afford management access necessary for implementing habitat improvement projects. Project goals were to restore 0.6 miles of stream habitat and acquire 60 acres with 1.0 mile of shoreline. Partner funding includes donations of land value and cash.

Result 1 (4f2.9): Restoration of 0.9 miles of Vermillion River channel. Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) dollars directly restored approximately 0.44 miles of the total restored channel. Other State dollars (TU OHC = \$140,000) restored 0.41 miles, and other funding (Vermillion River Watershed = \$20,000) restored 0.05 miles of the total.

Result 2 (4f3.5): Acquisition of four parcels with a grand total of approximately 50.5 acres and 1.1 miles of stream shoreline. Because of the extreme variation in shoreline values it is hard to accurately predict a reliable acre benchmark. Most years, including the 2008 ENRTF appropriation, we far exceeded our acres goal. For the 2009 ENRTF appropriation, we fell short of the acres goal, but reached our “miles of shoreline” goal. ENRTF directly acquired approximately 38.8 acres of the total, including 0.7 miles stream shoreline. Donations of land value (“other funds” \$106,800) accounted for 11.7 acres and 0.4 shoreline miles. One of the Vermillion River parcels (parcel 7) was acquired jointly using both 2008 and 2009 grants to Metro Corridors Conservation Partnership. Results for Vermillion River, P7 were proportionately distributed for each grant.

Overall, as a result of this project, 0.9 miles of Vermillion River channel was restored to its original course, after being ditched for 50 or more years. Also, as a result of this project, 50.5 acres, including

1.1 miles of critical shoreline fish and wildlife habitat are now permanently protected and open to public angling and/or hunting - as well as other light use recreational activities. Due to failed negotiations, two acquisitions went into abeyance towards the end of the grant, resulting in \$57,975 being turned back to the ENRTF. Acquired parcels are now designated and managed as AMAs.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

All new AMA lands will be added to DNR's Public Recreational Information Maps (PRIM).

**2009 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
Final Work Program Report**

Date of Report: Aug 1, 2011
Date of Next Status Report: NA
Date of Work Program Approval: July 1, 2009
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration (2.9)/ Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition (3.5)
Metropolitan Conservation Corridors- Phase V

Project Manager: Mike Halverson
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Location: Projects may occur anywhere within mapped corridor area including, but not limited to, Dakota County (Vermillion River), Scott County (Eagle Creek), and Washington County (Browns Creek) depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$	500,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	<u>442,025</u>
	Equal Balance:	\$	57,975

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f 2.9/3.5

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. & III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project had a two pronged focus. **Result 1** (4f2.9) focused on a trout stream habitat restoration project located within Vermillion River Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), in Dakota County. This stretch of the Vermillion River channel had been altered by ditching. **Result 2** (4f3.5) focused on securing fee title parcels on the Vermillion River in Dakota County and Eagle Creek in Scott County. Parcels include habitat linkages that provided environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, exhibit a high risk of development, supply angler access, and afford management access necessary for implementing habitat improvement projects. Project goals were to restore 0.6 miles of stream habitat and acquire 60 acres with 1.0 mile of shoreline. Partner funding includes donations of land value and cash.

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Result 2 (4f3.5): Acquisition of four parcels with a grand total of approximately 50.5 acres and 1.1 miles of stream shoreline. Because of the extreme variation in shoreline values it is hard to accurately predict a reliable acre benchmark. Most years, including the 2008 ENRTF appropriation, we far exceeded our acres goal. For the 2009 ENRTF appropriation, we fell short of the acres goal, but reached our "miles of shoreline" goal. ENRTF directly acquired approximately 38.8 acres of the total, including 0.7 miles stream shoreline. Donations of land value ("other funds" \$106,800) accounted for 11.7 acres and 0.4 shoreline miles. One of the Vermillion River parcels (parcel 7) was acquired jointly using both 2008 and 2009 grants to Metro Corridors Conservation Partnership. Results for Vermillion River, P7 were proportionately distributed for each grant.

Overall, as a result of this project, 0.9 miles of Vermillion River channel was restored to its original course, after being ditched for 50 or more years. Also, as a result of this project, 50.5 acres, including 1.1 miles of critical shoreline fish and wildlife habitat are now permanently protected and open to public angling and/or hunting - as well as other light use recreational activities. Due to failed negotiations, two acquisitions went into abeyance towards the end of the grant, resulting in \$57,975 being turned back to the ENRTF. Acquired parcels are now designated and managed as AMAs.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Fish and Wildlife Stream Habitat Restoration
Allocation \$150,000 Balance \$0

<u>Program Area/Result</u>	<u>Trust Dollars Spent</u>	<u>Trust Accomplishments</u>
	\$ 150,000	0.9 miles of river restored

Completion Date: June 30, 2011

Description: Fish & Wildlife will focus on trout stream habitat restoration projects that have the following characteristics: stream channel has been altered due to ditching or some other manmade influence, affected area allows angler access through either fee title or a permanent easement, and affected area allows access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. Ultimately projects will be dependent on first obtaining fee title or permanent easement for angler access and habitat management.

Project money will provide funding to restore stream habitat on approximately 0.3 miles of designated trout stream, and leverage restoration of another 0.4 miles of designated trout stream through partner funds. The project will take place on the Vermillion River, Dakota County. Project will generate additional funded restoration through partnerships with Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU) and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO), for a grand total of 0.6 miles of restored stream habitat. MNTU will contribute \$140,000 from a Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) grant, and VRWJPO will contribute up to \$100,000 for re-vegetation work in 2011. Accomplishment reporting will divide the length of stream restored pro-rata based on the relative contribution of each funding source.

Vermillion River AMA, Channel Restoration, Dakota County

<u>Trust Dollars</u>	<u>TU OHC Dollars</u>	<u>Watershed Dollars</u>	<u>Trust Miles</u>	<u>TU OHC Miles</u>	<u>Watershed Miles</u>	<u>Total Miles</u>
\$150,000	\$140,000	\$20,000	0.44	0.41	0.05	0.9

Professional Services Total: \$19,740 Grand Total (Trust only): \$ 150,000

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 150,000
Balance: \$ 0

Result 2: Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition
Allocation \$350,000 Balance \$57,975 (back to ETF)

<u>Program Area/Result</u>	<u>Trust Dollars Spent</u>	<u>Trust Accomplishments</u>
	\$ 290,025	50.5 acres with 1.1 miles of shoreline

Professional services in the amount of \$34,525 related to land acquisition is included

Completion Date: June 30, 2011

Description: This project will secure fee title or easements on approximately 40 acres (0.7 miles of shoreline). Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will both build on the existing shoreline habitat and provide angler access. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 60 acres and 1.0 miles of critical shoreline habitat. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Projects will take place on one or more of the following sites: Vermillion River, Dakota County, Eagle Creek, Scott County,

and Browns Creek, Washington County, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Easements are currently monitored by Area Fisheries Staff during yearly management activities such as stocking, creel survey, electrofishing, and habitat improvement. Anglers also keep close watch and report unusual activities. Our current monitoring activities will include a monitoring form, which will be kept at area offices.

Enforcement and stewardship requirements become part of the regular workload and are funded with Fisheries project dollars.

Vermillion River, Parcel 7, Dakota County

Trust Acres	Trust Miles	Trust \$	Other St. \$	Other \$	Other St. Acres	Other St. Miles	Other Acres	Other Miles	Total Acres	Total Miles
6.6	0.05	\$35,500	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0	6.6	0.05

Vermillion River, Parcel 8, Dakota County

Trust Acres	Trust Miles	Trust \$	Other St. \$	Other \$	Other St. Acres	Other St. Miles	Other Acres	Other Miles	Total Acres	Total Miles
32.2	0.64	\$222,000	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0	32.2	0.64

Eagle Creek, Parcel 3, Scott County

Trust Acres	Trust Miles	Trust \$	Other St. \$	Other \$	Other St. Acres	Other St. Miles	Other Acres	Other Miles	Total Acres	Total Miles
0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$91,000	0	0	10.2	0.36	10.2	0.36

Eagle Creek, Parcel 4, Scott County

Trust Acres	Trust Miles	Trust \$	Other St. \$	Other \$	Other St. Acres	Other St. Miles	Other Acres	Other Miles	Total Acres	Total Miles
0	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$15,800	0	0	1.5	0.03	1.5	0.03

Total

38.8	0.69	\$257,500	\$0	\$106,800	0	0	11.7	10.39	323.3	2.75
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Professional Services Total: \$34,525 Grand Total (Trust only): \$ 290,025

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 350,000
Balance: \$ 57,975

V. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: Minnesota Trout Unlimited, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

B. B. Other Funds Being spent during the Project Period:

Year	Funding Source	Fisheries
2009	OHC	\$5,748,000
Total		\$5,748,000

D. Spending History

Restoration:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Fisheries</u>
2007	ENRTF – Metro	\$ 65,000
Total		\$ 65,000

Acquisition:

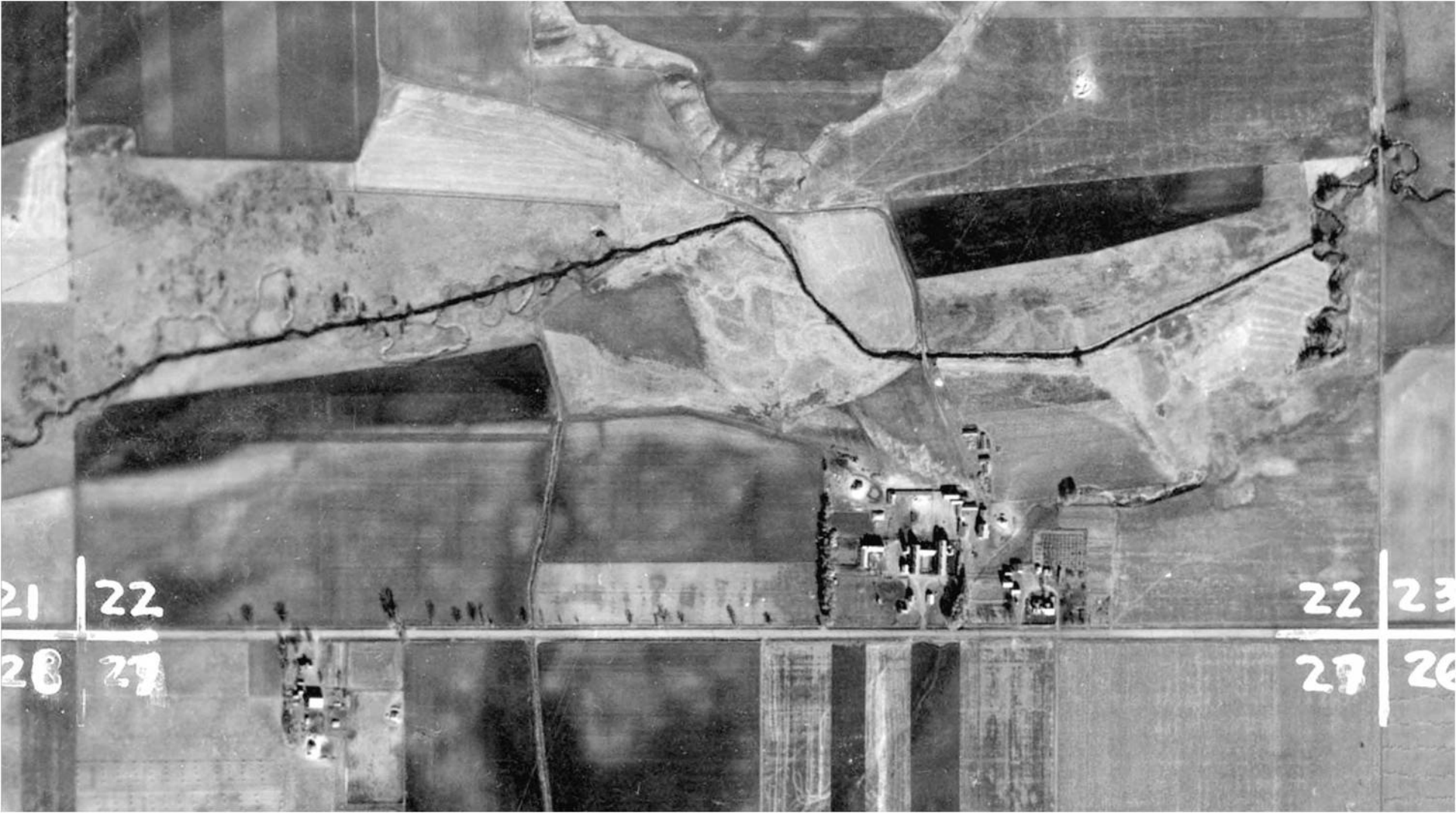
<u>Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Fisheries</u>
2006	ENRTF - Bonding	\$2,000,000
2007	ENRTF – Outstate	\$ 500,000
2007	ENRTF – Metro	\$ 172,000
2008	ENRTF – Outstate	\$ 250,000
2008	ENRTF – Metro	\$ 400,000
2008	ENRTF – Bonding	\$ 1,000,000
2009	ENRTF – Outstate	\$ 300,000
2009	ENRTF – Metro	\$ 500,000
Total		\$5,122,000

VII. DISSEMINATION: All new AMA lands will be added to DNR's Public Recreational Information Maps (PRIM).

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2010, August 1, 2010, and February 1, 2011. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA



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