

## Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

**Date of Report:** June 10, 2009

**Date of Next Progress Report:** November 30, 2009

**Date of Work Program Approval:**

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2011

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** HCP VI – Melvin Slough Landscape Restoration 2a

**Project Manager:** Kim Hanson  
**Affiliation:** Minnesota Deer Hunters Association  
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**Location:** *Polk County: Winger WPA: T147N., R42W., Section 1.2.11 T148., R42W., Section 35*

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>50,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>50,000</b>

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e2a

### **Appropriation Language:**

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the sixth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$770,000 is for the Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$2,605,000 is for agreements as follows: \$450,000 with Pheasants Forever; \$50,000 with Minnesota Deer Hunters Association; \$895,000 with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$85,000 with National Wild Turkey Federation; \$365,000 with the Nature Conservancy; \$210,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$350,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$100,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$50,000 with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and \$50,000 with Friends of Detroit Lakes Watershed Management District to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service is a cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. 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. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

The Winger Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) project objective, through private and public partnerships, is to restore critical and limited wildlife habitat. These partners include the Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, and the Habitat Conservation Partnership. As an ongoing effort, implementing this work plan will provide restoration to several portions of the designated corridors area directly complementing existing investments. The Minnesota DNR's plan "tomorrow's habitat for the wild and rare," lists wetland restoration and oak savanna restoration as necessary measures to benefit the species of greatest conservation need. This proposal seeks to conserve and build upon this existing habitat, facilitating the contributions of these lands to wetland dependent species in the broader landscape. Proposed wetland restorations are located in priority landscapes for wetland/grassland restoration, as identified by Habitat and Population Evaluation Team through the Working Lands Initiative priority areas. The project goals will use partnership efforts to restore 37 acres of these listed habitats on Winger WPA lands (10 prairie wetlands encompassing 13 Acres and 15 acres of oak savanna). Restoration efforts will include seeding native vegetation, and removal of overabundant woody species that influence the re-growth of native oak savanna.

## **III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF:**

## **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result 1:** Wetland Restoration – Winger WPA

### **Description:**

As identified by Habitat and Population Evaluation Team through the Working Lands Initiative priority areas, this project will restore approximately 10 prairie wetland basins (approximately 13 acres). Work will take place on designated locations and utilize low ground pressure D-4 and D-6 Dozers that will remove fill/silt

from wetland basins and fill-in existing drainage ditches with fill from wetlands. Seeding will also be done to restore the native plant communities. The 2009 appropriation (Phase VI) work would begin in the fall of 2009.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 1:** Trust Fund Budget: \$ 20,000  
 Amount Spent: \$ 0  
 Balance: \$ 20,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Wetland Restoration (Approximately 10 prairie wetland basins)	December 2009	\$ 20,000

**Result Completion Date:** *December, 2009*

**Result 2:** Oak Savanna Restoration – Winger WPA

**Description:**

In addition to the above listed efforts to restore wetlands, the Winger WPA contains oak savannas that have become overgrown with buckthorn, cottonwoods, green ash, and other woody species. These savannas that were once tolerant of low intensity prairie grassland fires are now at risk of loss due to excessive fuel loading in and around the oaks. Overabundant woody species have also prevented the establishment of new and replacement oak trees. These invasive and encroaching woody species (buckthorn, cottonwood, green ash, etc) will be removed to allow natural oak savanna succession. Future management efforts for this area will include potential spot herbicide use for suppression of woody species such as buckthorn, and experimental allowance of local Amish communities to graze goats in the area to browse buckthorn. Additionally, larger diameter woody species that affect the oak savanna, upon cutting, will be removed via draft horses by the local Amish community to utilize for subsistence heating. Approximately 15 acres of oak savanna habitats would be restored through the removal of competing woody species. The 2009 appropriation (Phase VI) work would begin in the fall of 2009.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 1:** Trust Fund Budget: \$ 30,000  
 Amount Spent: \$ 0  
 Balance: \$ 30,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Oak Savanna Restoration (Approximately 15	December 2009	\$ 30,000

Acres)		
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**Result Completion Date:** *December, 2009*

**V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:**

**Contracts:** \$ 50,000

**TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:** \$ 50,000

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

100% of the product budget will be spent paying contracted expenditures. The \$20,000 spent in the wetland restoration will be used on D-4 and D-6 low ground pressure dozers that will remove fill from wetlands and fill the existing drainage ditches.

The \$30,000 to be used for oak savanna restoration efforts will be contracted on the removal of woody vegetation using tree shears and back hoes. If market for bio-fuels develops locally the markets will be used. Otherwise, if a biomass market is within reasonable proximity and exists at the time of cutting, biomass will be hauled to local markets; this is dependent on transportation costs.

**VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Scott Kahan, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

This project will improve the wetland and oak savanna areas located in the Winger WPA. In Result #1 (wetland area) there will be regeneration of the natural species via seeding. In Result #2 (oak savanna) there will be seeding, planting, and/or release of oak as well as the removal of overabundant and invasive woody species. The long-term strategy is to restore these critical habitats for wildlife, fish, and native plant communities. Future efforts will include monitoring the overabundant & invasive species, further seeding of the area as needed, fire management, and chemical spot treatments of Buckthorn (as needed). If there is a market available at the time, there will be shipment of woody vegetation for biofuel.

**C. Other Funds Proposed to be spent during the Project Period:**

LCCMR Budget: \$50,000  
 Other Funds : \$37,500

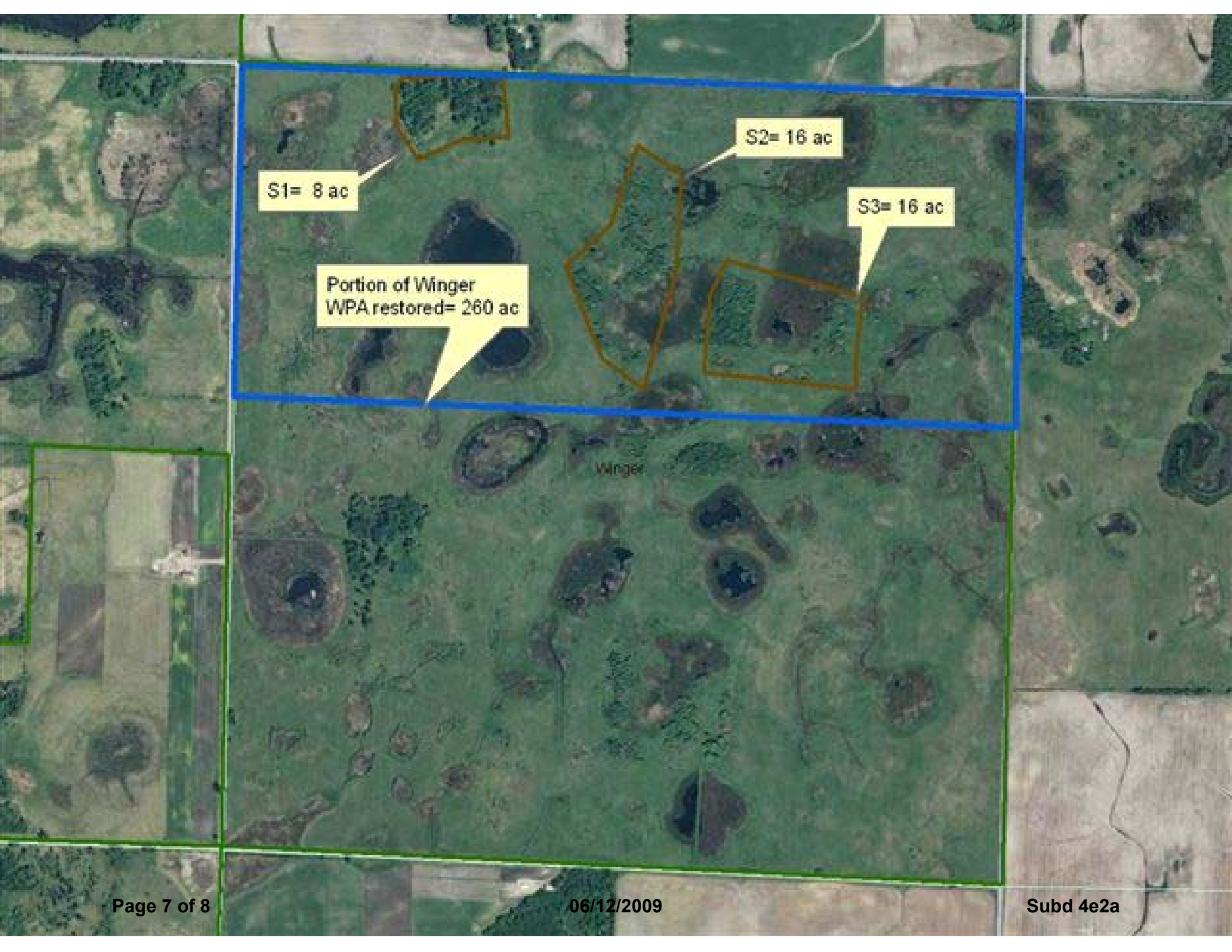
**Total Budget: \$87,500**

Staff *	Monitoring*	<i>Restoration</i>	Easement	Fee-Title	Total
	\$	\$50,000	\$	\$	\$50,000
\$7500	10,000	\$20,000			\$37,500

LCCMR funds will be leveraged with \$25,000 of federal funds (in-kind staff hours for contract oversight and management, and federal grants (applied); \$12,500 of MDHA hides for habitat funds and in-kind staff hours for reporting and monitoring.

**VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than November 30, 2009. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.**

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)											
Project Title: <i>Wetland &amp; Oak Savanna Restoration</i>											
Project Manager Name: <i>Kim Hanson</i>											
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 50,000											
2009 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 3 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Wetland Restoration</i>	0	\$20,000.00	<i>Oak Savanna Restoration</i>	0	\$30,000.00				50,000	
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>											
<b>PERSONNEL: wages and benefits</b>											
<b>Contracts</b>	20,000			30,000							
Professional/technical											
Other contracts - Strom Construction Inc.	D-4, D-6 Low Ground Pressure Dozers, Excavators for removal & replacement of ditches			Tree Shears, Back Hoe for Removal of Vegetation							
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>



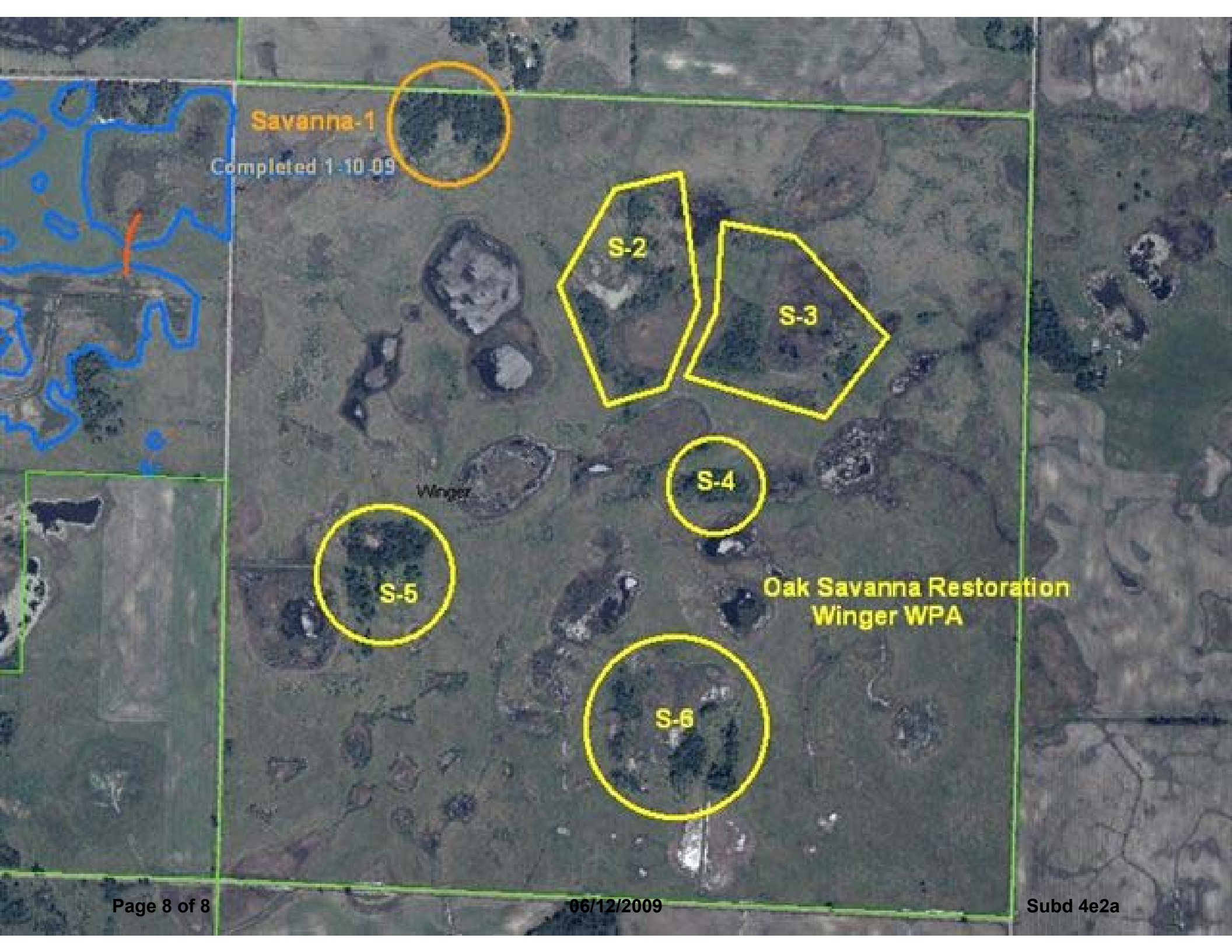
S1= 8 ac

S2= 16 ac

S3= 16 ac

Portion of Winger  
WPA restored= 260 ac

Winger



Savanna-1

Completed 1-10-09

S-2

S-3

S-4

S-5

S-6

Winger

Oak Savanna Restoration  
Winger WPA