

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: June 8, 2009
Date of Next Status Report: December 1, 2009
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Campaign for Conservation (4e 2n/4f) Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership

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Location: The Nature Conservancy will work in several Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Areas, including 3/7/8 – Border Prairie Transition Zone, 4 – Central Lakes, 5 – St. Louis River Estuary/Lake Superior Highlands, 6 – Upper Minnesota River, 10 – Southern Lakes, and 11- Mississippi Bluff Lands. Different activities will be undertaken in each of these areas. Please see the Campaign for Conservation project map.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$365,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$0
	Equal Balance:	\$365,000

Legal Citation: ML 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e2n4f

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 Nature Conservancy (TNC) works to “preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.” The Conservancy uses a rigorous planning process called Conservation by Design to identify large-scale, functional landscapes across the state. These areas, if conserved, protect and preserve high-quality examples of all of Minnesota’s native habitats.

For its Phase VI “Campaign for Conservation,” the Conservancy proposes to work with its partners to acquire and restore prairie, wetlands, savanna and forest habitats in critical areas identified by both the Conservancy’s and the Habitat Conservation Partnership’s planning processes.

Through the Campaign for Conservation the Conservancy will acquire 115 acres using Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ETF) and partner funding. These projects will protect and link existing public and private conservation investments, helping to build larger, more sustainable areas of habitat.

The Conservancy will also work with partners to restore 2,781 acres of degraded or converted habitat using ETF and partner funding. TNC reaches out to ensure that our projects benefit from the experience, skills and resources that each partner brings. Working together, we can share and apply innovative techniques and increase our restoration capacity.

In addition, the Conservancy will leverage ETF investments with a minimum of \$365,000 of “Other Funds”. Trust Fund dollars will help attract local and federal funding that would otherwise not be raised and spent in the project areas.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY: Twice annually, all Habitat Conservation Partnership progress summaries will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system. This system provides an accomplishment, expenditure and narrative update to LCCMR for each individual work plan.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Fee Title Acquisition

Description: The Conservancy will acquire fee title to 115 acres of habitat (20 acres with ETF funds; and another 95 acres with other funds). All acres will be in areas identified as critical in both the Conservancy’s and Habitat Conservation Partnership’s planning processes. The properties acquired may be retained by the Conservancy or transferred to the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or county government. Acquisition staffing will be accomplished by the Conservancy’s Director of Protection and Real Estate Specialists.

As part of the Conservation by Design process, TNC develops Conservation Area Plans (CAP) and Rapid Protection Plans (RPP) for each landscape where we are active. These plans define conservation objectives, management strategies, and areas targeted for action. Using these plans as a guide, the Fields Stewards will prepare a management plan for any properties acquired with these funds.

TNC ensures that funds are available for the continuing management of any acquisition by placing 20% of the fair market value of any purchased property in a dedicated stewardship endowment. The income from this endowment provides the resources for approximately 50% of our ongoing land management needs. The remaining 50% of future funding needs is actively raised through private donations and through private and public grants (which may include future applications to the LCCMR).

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: **Trust Fund Budget:** \$50,000
Amount Spent: \$0
Balance: \$50,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquire 20 acres	June 30, 2011	\$50,000

Result Status as of: All Habitat Conservation Partnership progress summaries will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system. This system provides an accomplishment, expenditure and narrative update to LCCMR for each individual work plan.

Final Report Summary: The final report will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system and will include the project abstract, and detailed accounting of expenditures and accomplishments for individual work plans.

Result 2: Restoration

Description: The Conservancy will restore 2,781 acres of existing Conservancy and public-protected prairie, wetlands, savanna, and forest habitat (2,261 acres with ETF funds; and another 520 acres with other funds).

Proposed restoration work includes preparing, seeding, and burning prairie habitats, recreating wetlands, encouraging white pine regeneration and controlling invasive species. One project also includes improvements to allow for rotational grazing. Any income associated with such grazing activity will be reinvested in the project, to the extent it is considered program income.

This restoration work will be accomplished by both Conservancy and contract staff. Conservancy staff may include Landscape/Project Managers, Field Stewards, Burn Bosses and seasonal work crews

Using the CAP plans described above as a guide, TNC staff are currently developing ecological restoration plans for each of the projects identified in the Potential Project List. These plans will include a description of the work to be completed, a timetable for implementation, identify any long-term maintenance/management needs, and verify that any plantings originate from sources of native ecotypes in Minnesota, preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating as close to the restoration site as possible, and when restoring prairies, protecting existing prairies from genetic contamination. These restoration plans will be completed before any ETF funds are expended.

TNC's science staff continually review restoration projects to ensure that the best available science and techniques are being applied.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2: Trust Fund Budget: \$315,000
Amount Spent: \$0
Balance: \$315,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore 2,261 acres	June 30, 2011	\$315,000

Result Status as of: All Habitat Conservation Partnership progress summaries will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system. This system provides an accomplishment, expenditure and narrative update to LCCMR for each individual work plan.

Final Report Summary: The final report will be generated by the Partnership online reporting system and will include the project abstract, and detailed accounting of expenditures and accomplishments for individual work plans.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$64,008 (5 seasonal, short-term staff (2.00 FTE) and an existing, long-term burn crew (0.15 FTE)). This figure includes overtime when deemed necessary and approved by supervisor.

The seasonal, short-term staff will include 5 employees at \$12.00 per hour, for 3650 hours, plus 470 hours overtime at \$18.00 per hour plus allowable fringe benefits, working on Prairie Forest Border and Sand Prairie Restoration projects. An existing, long-term Conservancy burn crew will work on the Northern Tallgrass Prairie and Sand Prairie Restorations.

Contracts: \$226,992 (Vendor contractors TBD, work will include seed harvesting/cleaning/sowing, tree planting, prescribed burns, herbicide application, installation of wells/gates/fences, ditch removal).

This total includes \$171,492 for Northern Tallgrass Prairie project, \$30,000 for fence construction, and gate, water, livestock handling facilities at the Prairie Coteau project, \$13,000 for the Sand Prairie Restoration, and \$12,500 for NE MN Conifer Forest Restoration.

Supplies: \$24,000 (this total includes approximately \$7,500 for fencing supplies, \$6,000 for fuel, \$2,500 for herbicide, \$2,500 for monitoring supplies, \$2,000 for brush cutting tools, \$2,000 for spraying tools and personal protective equipment, and \$1,500 for general equipment repairs and parts)

Acquisition, including easements: \$50,000 (20 acres to be acquired with ETF funding, to be held by TNC, DNR or county government)

Travel: NA

Other: NA

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$365,000

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

NA

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: We are part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI work program. Please see main work program for complete partner list.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Founded in 1958, The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota is the largest non-government conservation organization in the state and the only one dedicated specifically to the conservation of biological diversity. TNC currently has 23,000 members and owns and manages over 70,000 acres of grassland, forest and freshwater habitat in Minnesota. Working with our partners, we have helped to protect almost 300,000 additional acres.

TNC's Conservation by Design and Conservation Area Planning processes focus these efforts in the areas most important for preserving diversity. They also guide the long-term restoration and management of the lands where we work. The Minnesota chapter recently completed a ten-year strategic plan. This plan called for an acceleration in the work already underway in these critical areas.

LCCMR's six-year strategic plan, adopted in January, 2009, calls for us to work together to, "...preserve, protect, restore and enhance both the bountiful and the threatened natural resources that are the collective heritage of every Minnesotan."

This work program will help achieve the goals of both the Conservancy and the LCCMR. The 115 acres acquired with ETF and other funds and the 2,781 restored with these funds will represent a significant contribution to this work. TNC's proven ability to raise funds from private individuals and foundations ensure that the work accomplished with ETF funds can be leveraged to accomplish even more. In addition, our dedicated stewardship endowment provides for the long-term care of the lands acquired and restored with ETF funding.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: The Conservancy will leverage ETF investments with a minimum of \$365,000 of "Other Funds". These include funds for fee title acquisition and restoration. The sources for these funds will be private contributions and other, non-state public funding.

D. Spending History: Funds were allocated for this project in Phases IV (M.L. 2007, Chapter 30) and V (M.L. 2008, Chapter 367). ETF funds spent in FY 2008 totalled \$430,000. \$174,931 in ETF funds has been spent so far in FY 2009. Other funds spent in FY 2008 totalled \$366,529. \$177,110 in other funds has been spent so far in FY 2009.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Accomplishment Reports and press releases will be made available at <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

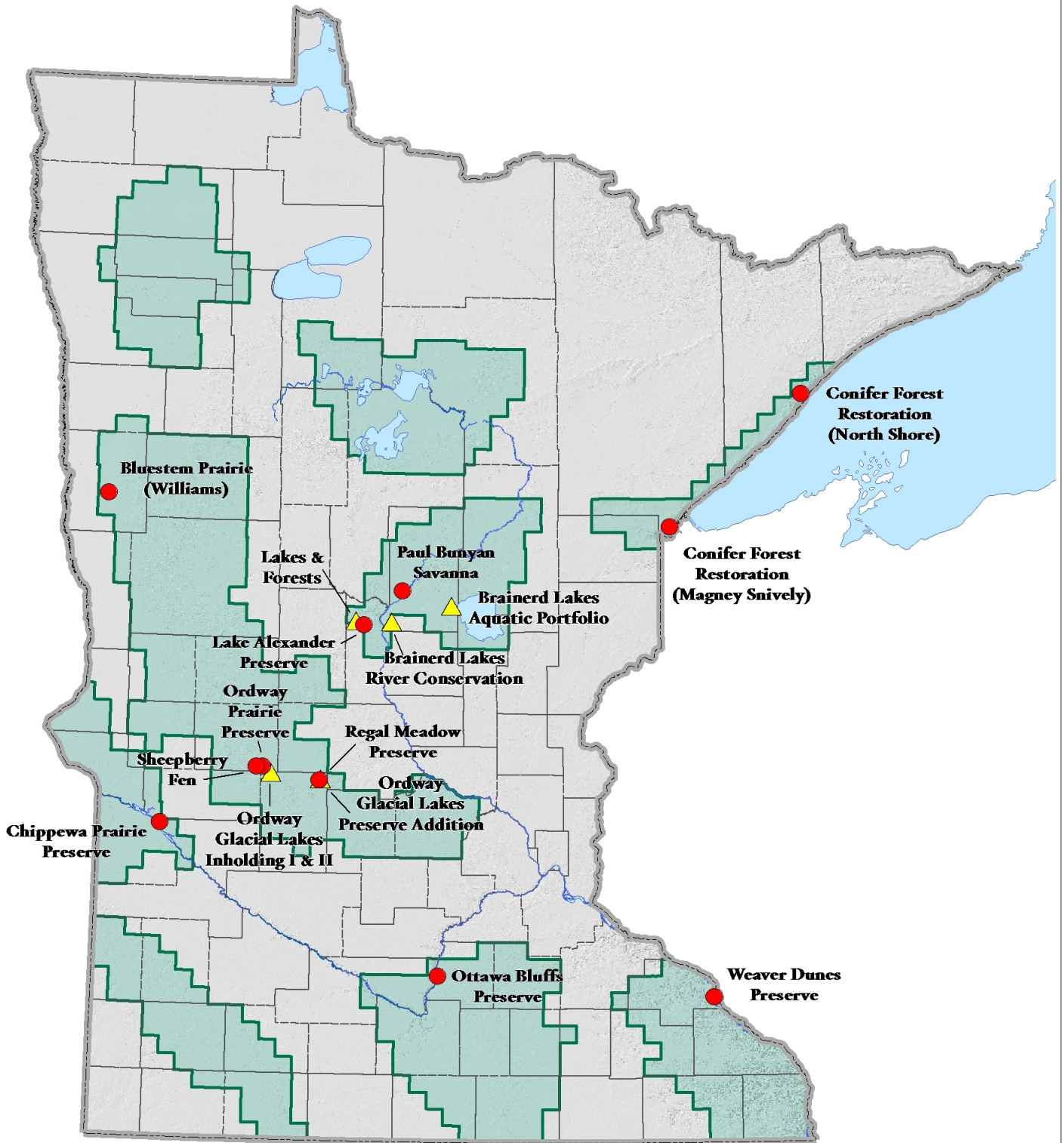
Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than December 1, 2009, June 30, 2010, and December 1, 2010. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011. All reports will be generated using the Habitat Conservation Partnership online reporting system.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

NA

Campaign for Conservation

The Nature Conservancy Potential Project List
Work Program Starting July 1, 2009



*Please note that these are potential projects and just because a project is listed does not mean it will be completed. All restoration projects are done on Conservancy lands or public lands. Projects not on this map that meet the strategic objectives of the Partnership may be added. More projects are listed than budget allocated to plan for the possibility that some projects may not come to fruition.

Legend

- Restoration Project Locations
- ▲ Acquisition Project Locations
- Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Areas

Map Created by: RCJ, TNC in MN-ND-SD, 2008/03
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Result 1 - Potential Project List*
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership
Campaign for Conservation (4e 2n/4f)
Last Updated: June 8, 2009

Acres - Total Goal 115
 Acres - Acquired 0
 Acres - To Be Done 115
 ETF\$ - Appropriated 50,000
 ETF\$ - Spent 0
 ETF\$ - Available 50,000

Project Name <i>Project Location(s)</i>	Project Description	County	Phase VI Proj. Area	Total Cost (Estimated)	Total Acres (Estimated)	ETF \$ (Estimated)	ETF Acres (Estimated)	Other \$ (Estimated)	Other Acres (Estimated)
Fee Title Acquisition	Acquire fee title interest in lands with critical habitat and hold or transfer to public agency.			\$342,550	115	\$50,000	20	\$292,550	95
Brainerd Lakes Aquatic Portfolio	This private parcel is embedded in a matrix of County and State land. The association of four portfolio lakes with this tract, the amount of shoreline included, and the matrix of publicly-held lands in the area all contributed to the prioritization of this tract. Based on The Nature Conservancy's Lakes Classification System for MN, the following aquatic portfolio lake targets will receive protection from this transaction: significant drainage to a Large, deep lake, 100% of the shoreline of one and 47% of the shoreline of another Medium to small, deep lakes; and 61% of the shoreline of a Small, littoral lake. Combined with adjacent public ownership, this would provide protection for at least 60% of the shoreline for these three lakes, an indicator of success identified in the Conservancy's Brainerd Lakes Aquatic Conservation Action Plan.	Crow Wing	4	TBD	319	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Brainerd Lakes River Conservation	This tract includes the entire shoreline and access to a large lake as well as approximately one-half mile of river frontage. It also lies upstream of significant other conservation lands. Protected targets would include forested wetlands and small river systems. Protection of forested wetlands on the tract may benefit local populations of Blanding's turtles, four-toed salamanders, sandhill cranes, and American bitterns.	Crow Wing	4	TBD	600	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lakes & Forests	This tract is an important in-holding within an existing Conservancy Preserve. Acquisition of this tract would fill a significant gap in TNC ownership, further protect the forested wetland systems on this site and the Preserve, and simplify implementation of prescribed fire activities on the Preserve. Protected targets include dry-mesic pine, hardwood forests on hummocky glacial moraines, and dry-mesic hardwood or hardwood conifer with a dominant red oak canopy on stagnation moraines. Nested targets include gray wolves and red-shouldered hawks.	Morrison	4	TBD	116	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Ordway/Glacial Lakes Inholding I	This tract is one of a few remaining in-holdings in an existing Conservancy Preserve. The protected area includes mesic hardwood systems (MHs38, as classified by the Field Guide to Native Plant Communities in Minnesota).	Kandiyohi	3-7-8	TBD	10	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ordway/Glacial Lakes Inholding II	This tract adjoins an existing TNC preserve and includes 4300' of shoreline on two lakes identified as high priorities in The Nature Conservancy's Lakes Classification System for MN. The property also includes mesic hardwood systems (MHs38, as classified by the Field Guide to Native Plant Communities in Minnesota). Nested targets include red-shouldered hawks.	Kandiyohi	3-7-8	TBD	25	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ordway/Glacial Lakes Preserve Addition	This tract includes a MN County Biological Survey area of outstanding biological significance. Protecting this property would help retain the natural recapture zones that feed the surface water-driven wetlands and filter and regulate the surface water entering the Crow River. Conservancy ownership and management will also help head off new invasive species infestations in or near our preserve and allow the property to be restored to native vegetation. Protected communities include: surface water-driven wetlands (willow-dogwood shrub swamp), ground water seepage wetlands (sedge meadow), and fire dependent prairie/wetland system (mesic prairie (southern)).	Kandiyohi	3-7-8	TBD	40	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
TOTAL GOAL				\$342,550	115	\$50,000	20	\$292,550	95

*Please note that these are a list of potential projects -- completion of these acquisitions is dependent on successful negotiation with the landowners and availability of funding. More projects are listed than budget allocated in order to plan for the possibility that some projects may not come to fruition. Therefore, the total acreage included in the above list exceeds the total acres to be acquired pursuant to this grant. In addition, additional projects that meet the strategic objectives of the Partnership may be added via submission of a project list amendment.

Total Cost and Total Acres include ETF as well as Other Funds dollars and acres.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects								
Project Title: Campaign for Conservation (4e 2n/4f) Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership								
Project Manager Name: Rich Johnson								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$365,000								
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet								
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable								
2009 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Fee Title Acquisition			Restoration				
BUDGET ITEM								
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits - This figure includes a seasonal, short-term staff of 5 employees (2.00 FTE) at \$12.00 per hour, for 3650 hours, plus 470 hours overtime at \$18.00 per hour plus allowable fringe benefits. An existing, long-term Conservancy burn crew (0.15 FTE) will also work on these projects.	0		0	64,008		64,008	64,008	64,008
Contracts								
Professional/technical (with whom?, for what?) - Vendor contractors TBD. Work will include seed harvesting/ cleaning/sowing, tree planting, prescribed burns, herbicide application, installation of wells/gates/fences, ditch removal.	0		0	226,992		226,992	226,992	226,992
Supplies - (what supplies? Give a general description and cost) - Estimated costs include \$7,500 for fencing supplies, \$6,000 for fuel, \$2,500 for herbicide, \$2,500 for monitoring supplies, \$2,000 for brush cutting materials, \$2,000 for tools and personal protection gear for spraying, \$1,500 for general machinery parts & repairs.				24,000		24,000	24,000	24,000
Land acquisition	50,000		50,000			0	50,000	50,000
Other Supplies (list specific categories)			0			0	0	0
Other (Describe the activity and cost) be specific			0			0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$315,000	\$0	\$315,000	\$365,000	\$365,000