

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: 5/12/2009
Date of Next Progress Report:
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: 11/2010

I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP Prairie Landscape Restoration: Oak, Savanna, Grasslands, and Wetlands

Project Manager: Greg Hoch
Affiliation: Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District
Mailing Address: 26624 N Tower Rd
City / State / Zip: Detroit Lakes MN 56501
Telephone Number: 218-443-0476 (cell)
E-mail Address: hoch@cord.edu
FAX Number: 218-847-4156
Web Site Address:

Location: *Becker County MN*

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

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e2o

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: This project will restore a complex of wetlands, grasslands, and oak savanna as would be found on the original MN landscape on Kruger Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Becker County. We plan to restore approximately 30 type I wetlands totaling 30 acres. We will also selectively cut trees and brush from 20 acres of overgrown oak savanna. We will leave the scattered older oaks. All the herbaceous, grass and forb, seed used after the wetland restoration and tree cutting will be locally collected by college student interns at the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District office from nearby native prairie sites in Becker County. The goals of this project are reconstruction of presettlement ecological landscape features and increased wildlife use, specifically nesting migratory birds, at the site.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

All Habitat Conservation Partnership progress summaries (twice annually) 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: In addition to the activities listed below, we have developed long-term restoration and management plan for the site. After the equipment is done at the site, the disturbed areas will be reseeded with grass and forb seed collected from nearby native prairie tracts to maintain the genetic integrity of the site. We will also try to match plant species to the habitat / soil types. In other words we will plant hydric soil species around the edges of the restored wetland and mesic soil prairie species in the adjacent uplands and savanna areas. As part of ongoing invasive species management efforts by the Detroit Lakes WMD office, the site will be annually surveyed for invasive plants species, especially on the disturbed area. Any invasive plants identified will be treated in a manner appropriate to the species. The site will also be rotated into the DLWMD burn plan and will be burned on a roughly four year interval.

Result 1: Wetland Restoration on Kruger WPA

Description: We will remove fill/silt from wetland depressions to both deepen them, remove weed seed, and to expose the seedbed of desirable native wetland plant species. The fill will be used to fill in the ditches that drained the wetlands. We will completely fill and feather out the ditches, not just place a plug in the ditch.

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

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1.Remove silt from wetlands	12/2010	\$ 30,000
2.Fill ditches	12/2010	
3.Reseed basins and ditches	12/2010	

Result Completion Date: 12/2010

Result Status as of December 1, 2009: 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: Oak savanna on Kruger WPA

Description: We will cut down or girdle all non-oak trees in the savanna area. All shrub/sapling layer trees will be cut and removed from the site to allow enough light on the soil to germinate grassland/prairie seeds. The non-oak canopy trees will be girdled but allowed to stand. These standing dead trees will slowly decay and become infected with insects. This will provide both nesting habitat and food for cavity nesting species such as woodpeckers.

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

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1.cut and remove trees from savanna	12/2010	\$ 20,000
2.burn trees	12/2010	
3.reseed savanna	3/2011	

Result Completion Date: 4/2011

Result Status as of December 1, 2009: 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: \$

Contracts: \$ 50,000 (Strom Construction will do all wetland and savanna restoration work. USFWS staff will reseed the site after construction activities are done.)

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$

Acquisition, including easements: \$

Travel: \$

Other: \$

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$50,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The project is coordinated by the Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The goal of the project is to provide more habitat for both wetland and savanna dependent plant and wildlife species, most of which are declining across Minnesota.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: We will be submitting NAWCA (North American Wetland Conservation Act) grants to match LCCMR dollars for similar restoration in the same general area of Becker County.

D. Spending History: We received \$40,000 ENRTF dollars in the previous phase of ENRTF funding for wetland restoration at nearby Waterfowl Production Areas the Wetland Management District. This is part of our overall plan to restore habitats within the district to presettlement vegetation conducive to producing high densities of migratory waterfowl and songbirds.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than 1 December 2009, 1 June 2010, and 1 Dec 2010. 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:

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)								
Project Title: <i>Prairie Landscape Restoration: Oak Savannas, Grasslands, and Wetlands</i>								
Project Manager Name: <i>Greg Hoch</i>								
Trust Fund Appropriation: <i>\$ 50,000</i>								
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance</u> <i>(5/2009)</i>	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance</u> <i>(5/2009)</i>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Wetland Restoration on Kruger WPA</i>	0		<i>Oak Savanna Restoration on Kruger WPA</i>	0			
BUDGET ITEM								
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits <i>(List individual names, amount budgeted and %FTE; add rows as needed)</i>								
Contracts								
Professional/technical <i>(with whom?, for what?)</i>								
Other contracts <i>Strom Construction will do all wetland and savanna restoration work)</i>	30,000		30,000	20,000		20,000	\$50,000	50,000
Other direct operating costs <i>(for what? – be specific)</i>								
COLUMN TOTAL	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$50,000