

## Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

**Date of Report:** May 7, 2009  
**Date of Next Progress Report:** November 2009  
**Date of Work Program Approval:**  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2011

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** **Minnesota Land Trust: Shoreland Protection Project  
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI**  
[www.mnhabitatcorridors.org](http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org)

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**Location:** Statewide

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e3a

### **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 Minnesota Land Trust's Shoreland Protection Program is one of the most focused and highly leveraged components of the Habitat Conservation Partnership. Under this phase of the project, the Land Trust proposes to spend \$210,000 to protect critical riparian habitats by securing 3-5 conservation easements on approximately 300 to 500 acres of lands that contribute to Minnesota's legendary network of lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams.

Working in many of the delineated project areas, we will carefully select, design and implement individual real estate projects to make sure that conservation goals and objectives can be met and that identified conservation values can be protected in perpetuity. Working with willing and committed landowners, we will prioritize projects and coordinate with other partners to the extent possible in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. Potential projects which we may pursue are identified on the attached list and accompanying map.

We will work only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements will prohibit those land uses or development that harm or negatively affect important riparian and other habitat values, require natural resource habitat management plans where appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation where appropriate in conjunction with any required restoration.

These easements will be monitored and enforced under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement stewardship program funded in part through our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

We will work with donated easements whenever possible and purchase easements if necessary, preferably at a bargain sale price. Through easements, we are able to protect land at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase the land outright in fee. And with land largely remaining in private ownership, private landowners become partners in conservation.

Proposed activities under this grant include: identifying and negotiating with interested landowners, drafting and completing the easements, documenting

property conditions, and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

Funds will be used for staff time, direct payments to landowners, and transactional expenses such as appraisals, title review, and mapping. Funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis. We will estimate anticipated annual expenses for each project and the investment needed in order to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity--all in accordance with our policies and procedures—and request funds to cover all or part of the needed amount, depending upon whether other funding is available. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant as well as complete any other necessary annual reporting.

### III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

#### Result 1: Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements

##### Description:

The Minnesota Land Trust will protect critical riparian habitats in any of the designated project areas throughout the State by identifying and contacting interested landowners, negotiating and completing 3-5 perpetual conservation easements (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate) on up to 300-500 acres of land and dedicating funds for long-term monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

These acreage and project numbers are estimated based upon the amount of time anticipated to complete individual projects and upon our average conservation easement size of just over 100 acres per project. Actual completed project acreages and numbers will vary.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. We currently have numerous projects pending, as identified on the attached list. Some of these pending projects may not be completed at all as they are evaluated by the Land Trust or as landowners choose not to pursue protection options and other projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate all projects to maximize conservation.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 1:** Trust Fund Budget: \$210,000  
Amount Spent: \$ 0  
Balance: \$210,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect up to 300-500 acres of land by identifying	Activity will be	\$210,000

and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects and dedicating funds to ensure long-term easement sustainability.	ongoing with projects completed by June 2010	
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**Result Completion Date:** Estimated as 6/30/2010 but no later than 6/30/2011. Status of individual projects will be reported on the attached project list.

**Result Status as of November 2009:**

**Result Status as of May 2010**

**Result Status as of November 2010 (if needed):**

**Result Status as of May 2011 (if needed):**

**Final Report Summary:**

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

<b>Personnel:</b>	\$ 70,000
<b>Acquisition, including easements:</b>	\$ 75,000
<b>Travel:</b>	\$ 5,000
<b>Other—easement stewardship:</b>	\$ 60,000

**TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:** \$210,000

**VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved. In addition to these partners, the many private landowners of lands protected by conservation easements completed under this project remain responsible for the use and management of their lands to preserve and protect the identified conservation values, making these landowners long-term partners in the preservation and protection of these critical areas.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** The focus of the Minnesota Land Trust’s activities under this project is on shorelands—fragile and ecologically important areas that have been recognized in the *Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* as among the most threatened natural systems in the State and in need of protection, conservation, and restoration.

This project is also a component of the Minnesota’s Land Trust’s long-term, strategic conservation agenda which guides the Land Trust’s conservation work throughout

the State. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Land Trust which includes, among other things, the preservation of lakeshores, rivers and streams for their importance as habitat, for their relationship to water quality, and for the scenic values that have long been associated with Minnesota's beauty. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. Many of these critical landscapes substantially overlap with the project areas identified through the Habitat Conservation Partnership.

Each individual conservation easement project completed by the Land Trust is evaluated to make sure that there are important conservation features that can be protected in perpetuity through the conservation easement being contemplated and that protection of these features provides significant public benefits. Additionally, the Land Trust places priority on projects that complement existing protected lands and connect important habitat areas, thereby amplifying the ecological value and public benefits achieved by an individual project.

Finally, since we work primarily with perpetual conservation easements, we have a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed

**C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:** Approximately \$500,000 of other funds is projected to come from the value of donated conservation easements. By working to acquire donated conservation easements or purchasing easements at a bargain sale price, the Minnesota Land Trust will be able to protect lands at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase comparable lands in fee.

The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but to date under the five previous phases of this project the Land Trust has accepted easements with known values in excess of \$16,000,000 and with a State investment of approximately \$2,000,000—an average of less than \$300/acre. We expect to continue this degree of leverage in this phase of the project.

Additional funds will be also be spent by the Minnesota Land Trust from its operating fund to cover costs associated with the project that are not covered by the grant.

**D. Spending History:** This project is part of the Minnesota Land Trust's ongoing program activity but is not separately accounted for. In addition to Land Trust operating funds spent on the project, the Land Trust has received previous Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund moneys over the past two years as follows: Minnesota Laws 2007, Chapter 30, Section 2, Subdivision 4(b): \$300,000, Minnesota Laws 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subdivision 3(c): \$210,000.

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** The Minnesota Land Trust holds more conservation easements than any other private conservation organization in the State, making it one of the most experienced organizations working with this unique conservation tool. As we learn from our experiences in protecting land with conservation easements, we will continue to share our knowledge and techniques with others

working in this area. Results will be disseminated by the Minnesota Land Trust in our publications and on our web page ([www.mnland.org](http://www.mnland.org)). We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which the lands are located. We will also participate when possible in larger dissemination and publicity efforts of the Habitat Corridors Partnership.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than November 2009, May 2010, November 2010 (if necessary) and May 2011 (if necessary.) 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:** N/A.

**Minnesota Land Trust  
LCCMR Habitat Corridors Partnership Project—Phase 6 Potential Project List  
May 2009**

The following is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust is currently considering or pursuing. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted.

Many projects on the list will not be completed. Others may be completed under prior or future phases of this program.

Status for each project will be added as the grant is initiated.

**Project Area 1**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Shoreline Feet</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Willow Water Lake</b>	258	Willow Water Lake	5,954	Polk	

**Project Area 2**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Shoreline Feet</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Boot Lake</b>	178	Boot Lake	4,000	Beltrami	
<b>Botany Bog</b>	232	Wetlands		Itasca	
<b>Buena Vista</b>	500	Larson Lake	extensive	Beltrami	
<b>Bush Shanty Lake</b>	40	Bush Shanty Lake	500	Itasca	
<b>Buzzle Lake</b>	30	Buzzle Lake & Creek	2,500	Beltrami	
<b>Clearbrook</b>	173	Wetlands	500	Clearwater	
<b>5 Lakes SNA</b>	527	5 Lakes	extensive	Itasca	
<b>Lakeport Township</b>	80	Wetlands & Creek	2,000	Hubbard	
<b>Lake Winni</b>	43	Lake Winni	2,800	Itasca	
<b>Mosquito Creek</b>	141	Mosquito Creek	2,000	Clearwater	
<b>Oak Lake</b>	72	Oak Lake		Hubbard	
<b>Sand Lake</b>	7	Sand Lake	600	Itasca	
<b>Trout Lake</b>	14	Trout Lake	100	Itasca	
<b>Turtle Lake</b>	40	Turtle Lake & Wetlands		Itasca	

**Project Area 3-7-8**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Shoreline Feet</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Big Cormorant Lake</b>	35	Big Cormorant Lake	2,500	Becker	
<b>Boo Lake</b>	66	Boo Lake	4,400	Meeker	
<b>Cooks Lake</b>	495	Cooks Lake	13,391	Becker/ Otter Tail	
<b>Crooked Lake</b>	13	Crooked Lake	3,443	Douglas	
<b>George Lake</b>	120	George Lake		Kandiyohi	
<b>Glacial Ridge</b>	20	Ponds		Kandiyohi	
<b>Koronis Hills</b>	65	Wetlands		Stearns	
<b>Kreitlow Farm</b>	80	Creek		Wright	
<b>Lake Bountiful</b>	120	Lake Bountiful		Douglas	
<b>Leaf Hills</b>	140	lake	TBD	Ottertail	
<b>Mustinka</b>	150	Mustinka River	TBD	Ottertail	
<b>Pelican Lake</b>	91	Wetlands, Pond		Otter Tail	
<b>Quinn Lake</b>	80	Quinn Lake, Wetlands		Stearns	
<b>Rice Lake</b>	128	Rice Lake	1,937	Wright	
<b>Three Lakes</b>	790	Fischer, Murphy, Gray	41,480	Becker	

**Project Area 4**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Shoreline Feet</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Big Trout</b>	156	wetlands		Crow Wing	
<b>Farm Island</b>	46	Farm Island Lake	1,300	Aitkin	
<b>Great River Road</b>	78	River	550	Aitkin	
<b>Island Lake</b>	107	Island Lake	2,600	Crow Wing	
<b>Island Lake</b>	600	Island Lake	25,000	Crow Wing	
<b>Island Lake</b>	45	Island Lake		Crow Wing	
<b>Lake Lougee Wetlands</b>	30	Wetlands	500	Crow Wing	
<b>Little Pine River</b>	84	Little Pine River	2,500	Crow Wing	



**Project Area 5**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County	Status
Castle Danger	44	Lake Superior	1,400	Lake	
Chester Creek	40	Chester Creek		St. Louis	
East Castle Danger	35		600	Lake	
Sucker River	65	Sucker River	1,275	St. Louis	

**Project Area 6**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County	Status
Minnesota River	157	Minnesota River		La Qui Parle	

**Project Area 10**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County	Status
Le Sueur River	140	Le Sueur River	5,000	Blue Earth	
Union Lake	70	Union Lake		Rice	
Lake Washington	122	Lake Washington		Le Sueur	
Silver Creek	200	Silver Creek		Olmsted	
Zumbro River	350	Zumbro River	2000	Olmsted County	

**Project Area 11**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County	Status
Apple Blossom Drive	250			Houston	
Middle Creek	30	Middle Creek	1,900	Wabasha	
Pepin Hills	307	Mississippi River	7,677	Wabasha	
Pleasant Valley	200			Winona	
Pleasant Valley	132			Winona	
Snake Creek	35	Snake Creek	1,700	Wabasha	
Zumbro Bottoms	800	Zumbro River	5,000	Wabasha	
Evergreen Acres	125	Zumbro River	4,000	Olmsted	

**Attachment A: Budget Detail**

**Project Title:**

Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership--Phase 6  
Minnesota Land Trust - Shoreland Protection Program -3(a)

**Project Manager:** Jane Prohaska

ENTF Funds: \$210,000

	<b>Result 1 -- Acquiring CEs - Shoreland Protection Program : BUDGET</b>	<b>AMOUNT SPENT AS OF (date)</b>	<b>BALANCE AS OF (date)</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>			
<b>Personnel: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA. SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1.00 FTE for one years as follows:</b>	\$70,000.00		
<b>Conservation directors or other land protection staff (aproximately .75 FTE)</b>			
<b>Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately .25 FTE)</b>			
<b>Travel</b>	\$5,000.00		
<b>Easement acquisition costs</b>	\$75,000.00		
<b>Purchase price of conservtion easement(s)</b>			
<b>Title work, title insurance, and closing fees, etc</b>			
<b>Maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS)</b>			
<b>Other (including appraisals and surveys)</b>			
<b>Easement stewardship</b>	\$60,000.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$210,000.00		