

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: May 8, 2009 – Revised May 28, 2009

Date of Next Progress Report: December 1, 2009

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Critical Lands Conservation Initiative – 4a
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Project Manager: Eran Sandquist
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Location: Our work may occur in any of the HCP project areas, but we typically focus in areas 3 and 6-10 (See HCP Project Area Map attached to the overall work plan)

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$	350,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	- 0 -
	Equal Balance:	\$	350,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e4a

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 Critical Lands Conservation Initiative (CLCI) will acquire 200 acres using ETF (100 acres) and partner (100 acres) funding. The focus will be on projects which adjoin or otherwise connect important wildlife habitat or projects which protect remnant prairie and or prairie wetland complexes. By protecting critical habitats (prairies, wetlands) and building larger complexes, the CLCI provides increased benefits to wildlife.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Acquisition

Description:

PF will acquire 200 acres (100 ETF; 100 Other Funds) consistent with the priorities of building upon existing investments (e.g. additions to existing public trust habitats), enhance landscape function (e.g. provide for significant habitat improvement (i.e. wetland/grassland restoration) on the local or regional scale) or provide significant public access benefits. Marginal croplands and associated acreage that will be converted to a mix of restored prairie and associated wetlands, but some may already be habitat (remnant prairie, CRP, wetlands) and require no restoration. Activities may include fee-title, restoration and other costs associated with acquiring tracts. Projects will be similar to the over 3,000 acres PF has completed using ETF and partner funding in previous phases of the HCP. Acquired tracts will be transferred to the state as part of the Wildlife Management Area system or to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Waterfowl Production Areas or some other mutually agreeable entity such as a County Park. We would consider this option when it would increase habitat management efficiencies. PF will follow LCCMR requirements for native restoration, land acquisition reporting, and transaction cost reporting. Pheasants Forever understands the requirements for restoration and management plans and will also coordinate with the DNR, USFWS or perpetual holder of the property to ensure that the lands acquired are developed for wildlife habitat and public enjoyment compliant with 2009 LCCMR Project Requirements regarding acquisition projects.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$350,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 350,000

Potential Project List*

CRITICAL LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE - 4a

Project Name	Estimated Acres	County
Spring Creek WMA Addition	201	Becker
Dean Christensen Memorial WMA (Tract 3)	40	Faribault
Sangl WMA	80	Jackson
Linde WMA	120	Waseca
TBD	240	Clay
Grass Lake/Panicum Prairie WMA	80	Freeborn
Grass Lake/Panicum Prairie WMA	240	Freeborn
Rice Lake WMA	16	Faribault
Donahue WMA	28	Freeborn
Alvstad WMA	10	Grant
Felber WPA Addition	40	Waseca
Bench WMA Addition	120	Swift
Diamond Lake WMA Addition	30	LeSueur
Big Lake WPA	370	Grant
White Bear Lake WMA Addition	55	Pope
Prairie Storm WPA Addition	80	Stearns
Florida Slough WPA	15	Kandiyohi
Prairie Ridge WMA	65	Otter Tail
Copeland WMA Addition	55	Otter Tail
Cambria WMA	80	Blue Earth
Everglade WMA Addition	80	Stevens
Ishaug Parcel	256	Clay
Kelley Acquisition	160	Wright
Somerset WMA Addition	40	Steele

*Please note that these are potential projects & just because a project is listed, does not mean it will be completed.

*All projects are done on public lands or in cooperation with willing private landowners

*Projects not on this list that meet the strategic objectives of the Partnership may be added at any time via submittal of a project list amendment

*Funding for projects completed or partially completed under previous phases of the Habitat conservation partnership should be considered added to this list.

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1.Acquisition	June 30,2010	\$325,000
2.Personnel	June 30, 2010	\$ 25,000

Result Completion Date: 06/30/2011

Result Status as of December 1, 2009: All update reports and the final report will be completed using the HCP online reporting system.

Result Status as of June 1, 2010:

Result Status as of December 1, 2010:

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 25,000 (0.2 FTE)

0.2 FTE direct to fee-title acquisition, including identification, preparation, negotiation, closing, and transfer to agency. Staff time direct to the project will be documented and only direct costs will be requested for reimbursement. This can include travel costs direct to the proposed work of acquiring 200-acres.

Contracts:

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$

Acquisition, including easements: \$ 325,000 – Acquired tracts will be transferred to the state as part of the Wildlife Management Area System or to the federal government (as a Waterfowl Production Area) or some other mutually agreeable entity (e.g. owned and managed by the County Park system but open to public hunting and other compatible outdoor recreation uses). We would consider this option when it would increase habitat management efficiencies.

Travel: \$

Other: \$

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$350,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI (ML 2009). Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved. Pheasants Forever works in close proximity with federal, statewide, and local partners interested in habitat conservation and public access. We have worked with as many as 25 individual partners on Habitat Conservation Partnership projects in the past and will continue to encourage and foster as much partnership as possible. We encourage as much participation with the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as possible.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project will provide habitat and public access to all Minnesotans on 200 acres of land providing maximized benefits due to its proximity to other habitats and/or its value for restoration. Grassland/wetland habitat complexes will be the focus for this proposal and will benefit the suite of birds and other wildlife that are cited as being in significant decline. Grassland and wetland restoration also provide (variable due to location) tremendous soil and water benefits. This unique Partnership exists as a result of the desire of LCCMR to encourage conservation partners to work together as a statewide collaboration to focus resources and bring additional funds to Minnesota's wildlife habitat resources. We are 18 formal partner agencies and organizations recognized for an ability to achieve the mission of restoring, enhancing and conserving habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: \$350,000 in non-state other funds will be provided by PF. Sources will likely include PF funds, private donation of land value, local partners, and NAWCA. PF continually seeks ways to enhance the ENTF and partnership impact through other funding opportunities.

D. Spending History: \$450,000 has been spent or is obligated to be spent under the HCP Phase IV (ML 2007) allocation. \$350,000 is internally obligated to be spent under the Phase V (ML2008) allocation prior to June 30, 2010.

VII. DISSEMINATION: All accomplishment reports will be available at www.mnhabitatcorridors.org and press releases will be available at www.pheasantsforever.org and will be shared with the LCCMR.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than December 1, 2009 and June 1, 2010. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted December 1, 2010 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)								
Project Title: Critical Lands Conservation Initiative – 4a Pheasants Forever, Inc.								
Project Manager Name: Eran Sandquist								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 350,000								
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent May 8, 2009	Balance May 8, 2009	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent May 8, 2009	Balance May 8, 2009	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Fee Title Acquisition							
BUDGET ITEM								
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits (0.2 FTE For Regional Representative direct to project)	25,000		25,000				25,000	25,000
Land acquisition (including eligible expenses such as appraisal, survey, title, closing, etc)	325,000	0	325,000				325,000	325,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000