

Trust Fund 2008 Work Program

Date of Report: June 11, 2009
Date of Next Status Report: December 1, 2009
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

**I. PROJECT TITLE: Phase VI - Fish and Wildlife Acquisition (4b)
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership**

Project Manager: Mike Halverson
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Location: Work may be accomplished in, but not limited to, project areas: 2) Mississippi Headwaters, 3) Border Prairie, 5) Lower St. Louis River, 6) Upper Minnesota River, and 11) Mississippi Bluff Lands

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$	300,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	<u>0</u>
	Equal Balance:	\$	300,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e4b

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 secure fee title or easements on approximately 120 acres of natural habitat and/or 1.4 miles of shoreline. Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will build on the existing habitat and provide angler access.

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:

Acquisition will focus on linkages that provide both fish and wildlife habitat values. The acquired lands will be designated and managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). Any shoreline easements acquired will provide environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone as well as public angler access

Result 1: Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition

Project money will secure fee title or easements on approximately 60 acres. Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will both build on the existing shoreline habitat and provide angler access. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 120 acres and 1.4 miles of critical shoreline habitat. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Specifically, acquisition under this grant will be of high priority property at, but not limited to, one or more of the following sites.

- Greenleaf Lake (Meeker County),
- Preece Point (Marquette Lake - Betrami County)
- Whitewater Way (Whitewater River - Wabasha County)
- Big Stone Lake (Big Stone County) , and/or
- Knife River (St. Louis County)

Easements are currently monitored by Area Fisheries Staff during yearly management activities such as stocking, creel survey, electrofishing, and habitat improvement. Anglers also keep close watch and report unusual activities. Our current monitoring activities will include a monitoring form, which will be kept at area offices.

Enforcement and stewardship requirements become part of the regular workload and are funded with Fisheries project dollars.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$300,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$300,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 120 acres acquired & designated AMA	6/30/11	\$300,000	

Completion Date: June 30, 2011

Result Status: 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:

Acquisition, including easements: \$300,000 (towards fee acquisition of about 60 acres, including about \$20,000 of related real estate transaction costs).

**TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: Acquisition \$280,000
Professional Services \$20,000**

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Habitat Conservation Corridor partners (see Table A) and private landowners, local governments, regional, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizen groups.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Minnesota's AMA Acquisition Plan 2008-2033 calls for shoreline acquisition to ensure shoreline habitat protection, water quality maintenance, and angler access for present and future generations. This plan envisions acquisition of 3,428 miles of lake and stream habitat during the next 25 years. This funding proposal would further that goal.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: Acquisition projects are estimated to leverage approximately \$300,000 (including donated lands/easements, local, other state (eg. bonding), and federal funding).

D. Past Spending

<u>Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Fisheries</u>
2006	ETF - Bonding	\$2,000,000
2007	ETF – Outstate	\$ 500,000
2007	ETF – Metro	\$ 172,000
2008	ETF – Outstate	\$ 250,000
2008	ETF – Metro	\$ 400,000
<u>2008</u>	<u>ETF – Bonding</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>
Total		\$4,322,000

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 1, 2010, and December 1, 2010. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR. All reports will be generated using the HCP online reporting system.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner					
Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Acquisition (4B)					
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (VI)					
Project Manager Name: Mike Halverson					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 300,000					
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					
2008 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Land Acquisition				
BUDGET ITEM			0	0	0
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits			0	0	0
Contracts			0	0	0
Professional/technical			0	0	0
Other contracts			0	0	0
Other direct operating costs			0	0	0
Equipment / Tools			0	0	0
Office equipment & computers			0	0	0
Other Capital equipment			0	0	0
Land acquisition	280,000	0	280,000	280,000	280,000
Land rights acquisition			0	0	0
Professional Services for Acq.	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000
Printing			0	0	0
Other Supplies			0	0	0
Travel expenses in Minnesota			0	0	0
Travel outside Minnesota			0	0	0
Construction			0	0	0
Other land improvement			0	0	0
Other			0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$300,000	\$0	06/12/2009 \$300,000	300,000	300,000

