

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: May 1, 2009
Date of Next Progress Report: Dec. 1, 2009
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Habitat Acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District of USFWS – 4(h), Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI

Project Manager: Deborah Loon
Affiliation: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.
Mailing Address: 2312 Seabury Avenue
City / State / Zip: Minneapolis, MN 55406
Telephone Number: 612-801-1935
E-mail Address: DebLoon@comcast.net
FAX Number: 612-728-0700
Web Site Address: www.mnvalleytrust.org

Location: Southeast Region, Blue Earth County

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$ 100,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 0
	Equal Balance:	\$ 100,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e4h

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: Fee title acquisition of 20 acres of significant habitat in the Southern Minnesota Lakes Region (focus area 10) in Blue Earth County for expansion of Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Fee title acquisition

Description: The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. will acquire at least 20 acres of priority wetland and grassland habitat in HCP focus area 10 (Southern MN Lakes). The Trust will acquire at least an additional 20 acres, using Trust and other non-state funds, in the same area. Lands will be donated by the Trust, to be managed and owned by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as a Waterfowl Production Area.

The Trust is working with landowners in focus area 10 and may complete one of the following (or other) acquisitions with the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant:

- Acquisition of land to expand the Perch Lake Waterfowl Production Area in Beauford Township of Blue Earth County. Perch Lake is an important migratory waterfowl resting lake and a DNR designated shallow lake. This 480 acre lake hosts more than 10,000 migrating waterfowl each year and is designated as an important resting area for Lesser Scaup. The Trust earlier acquired other parcels to establish the Perch Lake WPA, in part with ETF funds through HCP Phases III and IV.
- Acquisition of land to expand the Lincoln WPA in Lincoln Township of Blue Earth County. Historically, the area boasted tremendous waterfowl production due to a high density of wetlands and prairie habitat. The Trust earlier acquired parcels to begin this WPA, in part with ETF funds through HCP Phases III and V.
- Acquisition of a parcel to expand the existing Evans Slough Complex in Ceresco Township of Blue Earth County. This will allow the Trust and USFWS to come

one step closer to protecting and restoring a 200 + acre wetland basin that was drained forty years ago for agricultural purposes. The basin is significant for migration and breeding for a host of waterfowl and other prairie pothole species.

After acquisition and restoration of the habitat by the Minnesota Valley Trust, USFWS and other partners, the lands will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for management as part of the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 100,000
 Amount Spent: \$ 0
 Balance: \$ 100,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquire 20 acres in fee title with ETF funds and 20 acres in fee title with other non-state funds	June 30, 2011	\$ 100,000

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2011

Result Status as of November 30, 2009:

Result Status as of May 30, 2010:

Result Status as of November 30, 2010:

Result Status as of May 30, 2011:

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 0

Contracts: \$ 0

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 0

Acquisition, including easements: \$ 100,000

Travel: \$ 0

Other: \$ 0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 100,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: US Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, local soil and water conservation district, local watershed district, local conservation clubs.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project will benefit a host of waterfowl species, including mallard, blue-winged teal, lesser scaup, northern pintail, redhead, wood duck, and canvasback. All species are Priority Species listed by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, NAWCA, MN DNR Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. In addition, this area is host to more than 16 other species of waterfowl that will benefit from this project.

Acquisition and restoration of critical habitat are critical components and primary strategies of the Long Range Recovery Plan. This project will help to: 1) restore the breeding population objective of ducks; 2) restore the migration objectives for ducks in the Mississippi Flyway; and 3) fulfill the recreational objectives for waterfowl hunters and observers.

This particular project area is part of a larger strategy involving many other established projects and efforts -- NAWCA grants of more than \$25 million and more than 50 partners, USFWS Challenge Grants, EPA grants, CREP, numerous local grant programs and more than 20 local sportsman clubs active in the area. USFWS and partners have acquired more than 2,000 acres of habitat in the area to date and are restoring another 50 wetlands and 500 upland acres through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: \$100,000

D. Spending History:

Phase II (2003) - \$98,000 ETF and \$741,700 other non-state funds

Phase III (2005) - \$126,878 ETF and \$1,688,649 other non-state funds

Phase IV (2007) - \$100,000 ETF and \$232,976 other non-state funds

Phase V (2008) - \$50,000 ETF and \$80,196 other non-state funds.

VII. DISSEMINATION: As projects are completed, the Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the accomplishments through press releases, the Trust website and the Habitat Conservation Partners website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than June 30 and December 30. 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: NA

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects						
Project Title: Habitat Acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District of USFWS – 4(h), Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI						
Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon						
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$100,000						
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE	
	Fee title acquisition of 20 acres					
BUDGET ITEM						
Land acquisition	100,000			100,000	100,000	
COLUMN TOTAL	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	

