

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2010 Work Program

Date of Report:

Date of Next Progress Report: February 1, 2011

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2012

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Phase V Supplemental – Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. – 3.3, Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Project Manager: Deborah Loon
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Web Site Address: www.mnvalleytrust.org

Location: Metro, Central or Southeast (Minnesota River Valley). **County:** Scott, LeSueur and/or Sibley Counties.

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

Legal Citation: ML 2010, Chap.[____], Sec.[____], Subd.____.

Appropriation Language:

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: Fee title acquisition of at least 100 acres of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley within Scott, LeSueur and/or Sibley Counties for expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Fee title acquisition

Description: Fee title acquisition of at least 100 acres of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley within Scott, LeSueur and/or Sibley Counties. The

Result Status as of February 1, 2012:

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 0

Contracts: \$ 0

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 0

Acquisition, including easements: \$ 350,000

Travel: \$ 0

Other: \$ 0

TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 350,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: US Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, local units of government and others.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is part of a long-term strategy to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by up to 10,000 acres. The expansion strategy was developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge, completed September 2004 after a thorough public input process.

This project will further acquisition work completed previously by the Minnesota Valley Trust with support from the ENRTF. The benefits of the project include the following:

- Connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer.
- Improve water quality of the Minnesota River by retiring cropland and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie.
- Establish new lands for the public's enjoyment through the wildlife-dependent recreational activities of birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: \$225,000

D. Spending History:

Phase I (2003) - \$290,000 ETF and \$1,137,030 other non-state funds

Phase II (2005) - \$230,000 ETF and \$428,000 other non-state funds

Phase III (2007) - \$210,000 ETF and \$376,473 other non-state funds

Phase IV (2008) - \$225,000 ETF and at least \$225,000 other non-state funds
Phase V (2009) - \$225,000 EFT and \$225,000 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 Metro Conservation Corridors website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1 and August 1. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2012 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Priority Acquisition List:

| Project Name | Acres | Habitat | Status |
|--|--------------|--|---|
| Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge (Sibley County) | 100 + | Floodplain forest and prairie | Landowner outreach and discussions underway |
| Blakely Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge (LeSueur, Scott and Sibley Counties) | 100 + | Floodplain forest, wet meadow and shrub carr | Landowner outreach and discussions underway with several landowners |

Search Boundary Maps Attached:

These maps show the current search boundaries for the above expansion units approved for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the USFWS. The Minnesota Valley Trust acquires lands within the expansion boundaries of the units to be added to the Refuge, as identified by the USFWS.

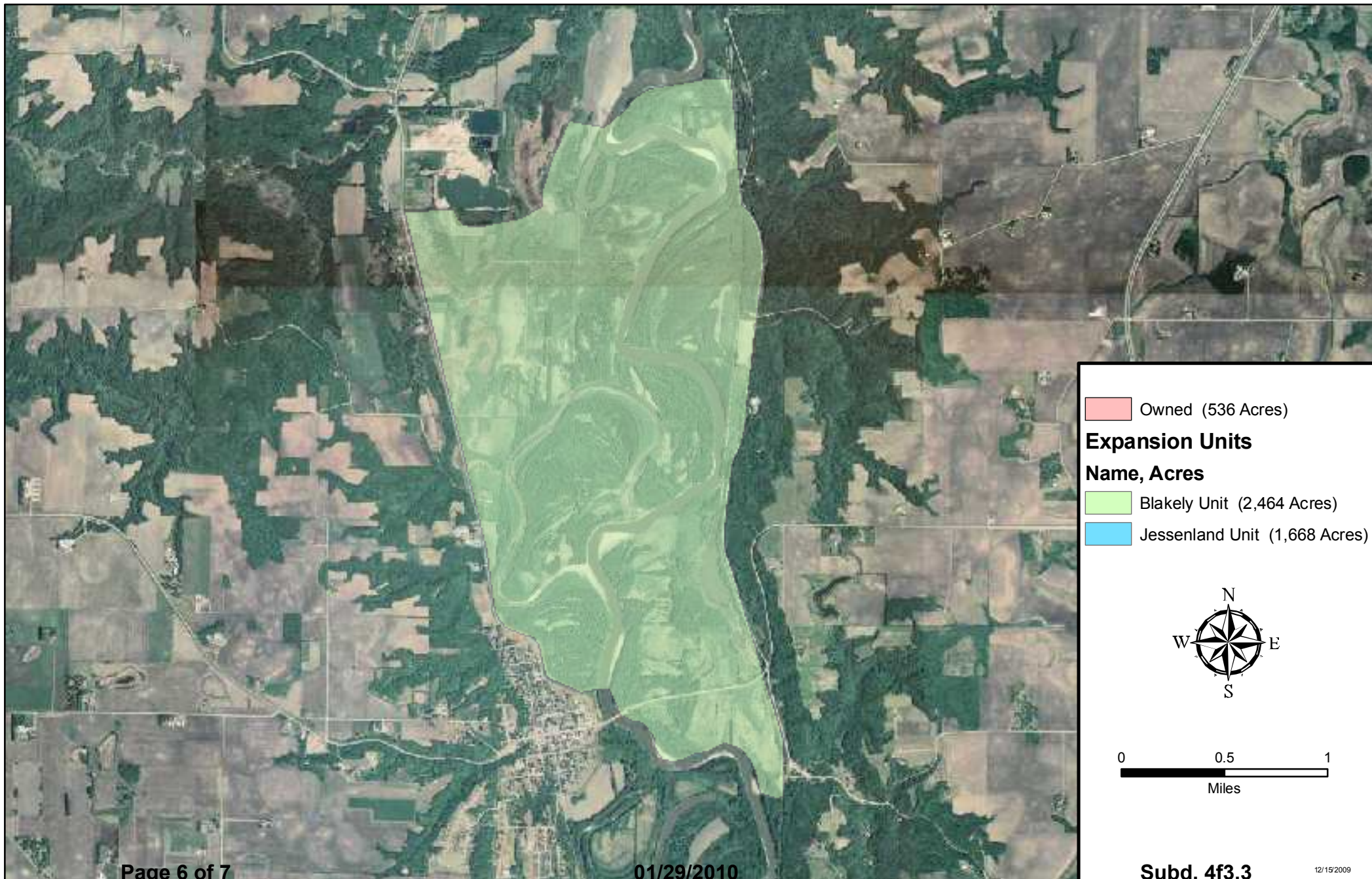
The USFWS will be updating its Comprehensive Conservation Plan in 2010 through a public process and may adjust the expansion boundaries. If and when this occurs, updated maps will be provided to the LCCMR.

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|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects | | | | | |
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| Project Title: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Phase V Supplemental – Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. – 3.3, Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge | | | | | |
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| Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon | | | | | |
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| Trust Fund Appropriation: \$350,000 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 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 100 acres | | | | |
| BUDGET ITEM | | | | | |
| Land acquisition | 350,000 | | | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| COLUMN TOTAL | \$350,000 | \$0 | \$350,000 | \$350,000 | \$350,000 |
| | | | | | |



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Expansion Unit: Blakely Unit





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Expansion Unit: Jessenland Unit

