# 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
Affiliation:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.
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**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:	<u>\$</u>	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

Minnesota Valley Trust will leverage these grant funds and acquire an additional 100 acres or more with other, non-state funds.

The Trust is working with multiple landowners within expansion units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, as prioritized and delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

The prospective lands offer significant habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands run along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain, cropland and bluffs. Some are adjacent to lands already in public ownership (FWS, DNR) or previously acquired by the MN Valley Trust for the Refuge expansion.

These acquisitions will 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.

This project will improve water quality by retiring cropland in the Minnesota River Valley and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. When donated to the USFWS, the public will be given access to the lands for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

After acquisition and restoration of the habitat by the Minnesota Valley Trust and other partners, the lands will be donated to the USFWS for management by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

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

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
<b>1.</b> Acquire at least 100 acres in fee title with ENRTF funds and 100 acres in fee title with other non-state funds	June 30, 2012	\$ 350,000

#### Result Completion Date: June 30, 2012

#### Result Status as of February 1, 2011:

#### Result Status as of August 1, 2011:

**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

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

#### **Priority Acquisition List:**

## Search Boundary Maps Attached:

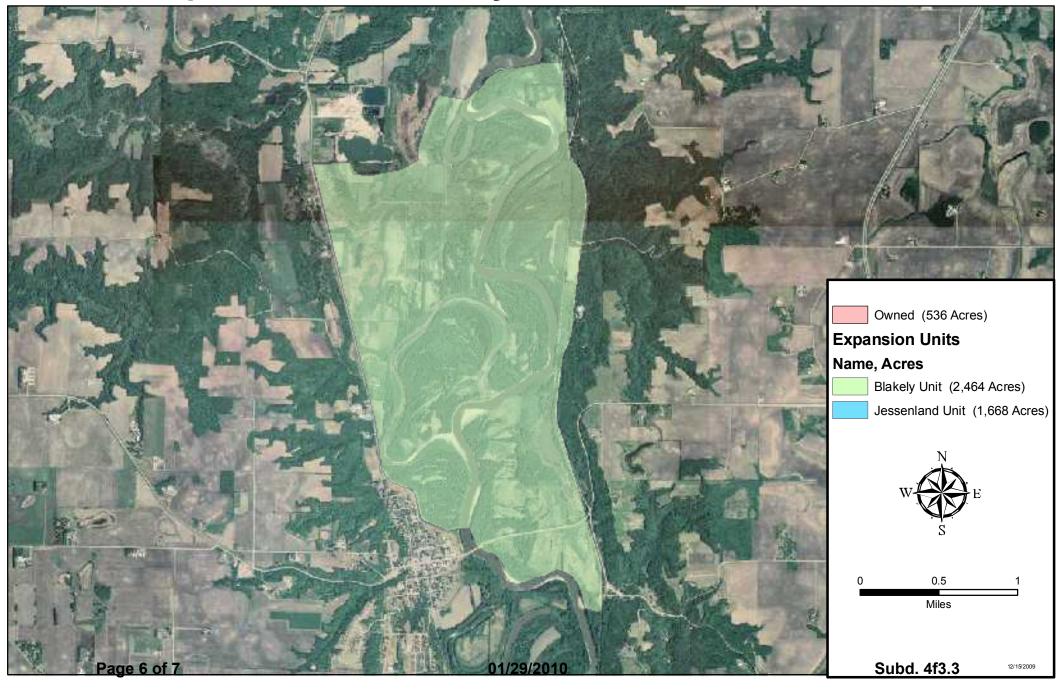
These maps show the current search boundaries for the above expansion units approved for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the USFWS. The Minnesota Valley Trust acquires lands within the expansion boundaries of the units to be added to the Refuge, as identified by the USFWS.

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.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects					
Project Title: Metropolitan Conservation Corric Valley National Wildlife Refuge	lors, Phase V Supplementa	al – Minnesota \	/alley Trust, Inc	. – 3.3, Expansion of I	Minnesota
Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$350,000					
2009 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	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

