

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

**Date of Report:** 8 Jan 2010  
**Date of Next Progress Report:** 1 November 2010  
**Date of Work Program Approval:**  
**Project Completion Date:** 1 June 2011

**I. PROJECT TITLE: HCP Phase VI Supplemental - Wetland Restoration in  
Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (2o)**

**Project Manager:** Greg Hoch  
**Affiliation:** Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District  
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**Location:**

eastern Clay and western Becker County Waterfowl Production Areas  
Clay - Whiskey Lake WPA T137 R44 S36  
Kruger WPA T141 R41 S15  
Lake Park WPA T139 R43 S10  
Seter-Davis WPA T140 R43 S26

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 45,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 45,000</b>

**Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2o**

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,344,000 is added to Laws 2009, chapter 143, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (e), from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$308,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,036,000 is for agreements as follows: \$425,000 with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$50,000 with National Wild Turkey Federation; \$164,000 with the Nature Conservancy; \$102,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$45,000 with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; and \$50,000 to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe 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 an authorized 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.

## **II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

Trust funds in the amount of \$45,000 will be used to restore approximately 75 wetland basins totaling 30 acres. The USFWS estimates that the average basin size is 0.4 acres. We will first remove the accumulated silt from the wetland basin that resulted from the decades of farming on the site. This will increase the volume and depth of the wetland, remove the seedbank of weed seeds, and hopefully expose the original seedbank and roots/rhizomes of the historic wetland plant community at the site. Soil cores are taken at a subset of the wetlands on each site. This will allow us to determine the line between the original wetland soils and the sediment that has washed into the basin. This difference is very easy to see on the soil core. While we will not hit this boundary perfectly each time, we will hopefully be close.

The silt will be used to fill the length of the ditch that originally drained the wetland. The area will then be smoothed over with equipment to restore the original topography of the area around each wetland. The area will then be reseeded with local ecotype seed mechanically and hand harvested from nearby WPAs. By moving the wetland weed seeds into higher areas within the ditch, the idea is that it will be too dry for these seeds to germinate. That, in combination with the competition from the seed we are spreading should greatly reduce the abundance of invasive plants on the site.

We will monitor the vegetation and wildlife response on these restorations through the efforts of the District Biologist at Detroit Lakes as well as citizen science projects through the Friends group. A subset of these restorations will be incorporated into a larger Midwest Region sedimentation study that will monitor vegetation and wildlife responses to these treatments across the Upper Midwest.

This project will positively contribute to stated goals of project partners. Utilizing HAPET models generated for the working land initiative (WLI), this project has been specifically targeted to those locations within the corridors that can accomplish the habitat benefits for a broadest range of wildlife/partner priorities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will provide technical assistance to stake, and supervise wetland restoration projects. "Staking" these projects consists of identifying the extent of the drained wetlands on the ground, and identifying the specific work to be completed by the contractor (specifically where to remove fill from the basin, and where/how high to fill in the ditches). Restored wetland sites will provide increased fish and wildlife habitat, flood attenuation, ground water recharge, pollutant trapping, and scenic and recreational benefits. Wetland restorations will be protected for perpetuity on Federally-owned Waterfowl Production Areas.

### III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

#### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

This program emphasizes restoring habitats for fish and wildlife in concert with the goals of the working lands initiative as prescribed by HAPET models. These projects benefit both Minnesota sportsmen and the general public by providing habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, improving water quality and watershed health, storm water storage and reduced downstream flooding, reducing non-point source pollution, and creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and education.

#### RESULT/ACTIVITY 1: Wetland Restoration

**Description:** Contactors will be selected through the Federal governments IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity) process. Although bids will be put out for everyone, there are contractors in the area that the FWS has worked with in the past and that have experience with wetland restoration on FWS property. The contractor will not itemize each step (remove silt, deposit and spread silt) but will provide billing per wetland. USFWS personnel will do the reseeding using local ecotype seed collected on nearby native prairies.

#### Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 1:

<b>ENRTF Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 45,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 45,000</b>

<b>Deliverable/Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>1. remove silt from wetlands</b>	4/11	\$ 25,000
<b>2. fill ditches with silt</b>	4/11	20,000
<b>3. reseed site</b>	6/11	0

**Result Completion Date:** 1 Nov 2011

**Result Status as of** 1 Nov 2010

**Result Status as of** 1 May 2011

**Result Status as of**

**Final Report Summary:** 1 Nov 2011

#### V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:

**Personnel:** \$

**Contracts:** \$ 45,000

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$  
**Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):** \$  
**Travel:** \$  
**Additional Budget Items:** \$

**TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 45,000**

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

## **VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

### **A. Project Partners:**

The USFWS and the Friends group will continue to work with other USFWS offices in the region, the MN DNR, and NGOs such as the MN Prairie Chicken Society, MN Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever to protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat across the prairie pothole region of northwestern Minnesota.

### **B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

The impact of this project will be to create additional habitat for wetland dependent wildlife such as waterfowl, marshbirds, passerines, and furbearers. The long-term strategy for managing these land will be through the on-going fire and weed control control efforts currently conducted by FWS staff at the DLWMD office.

### **C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:**

The grant dollars from this project will be matched to Federal dollars through the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA). We plan to match this \$45,000 combined with \$30,000 from a previous LCCMR grant for a total NAWCA proposal of \$75,000. This grant was submitted in mid-October.

### **D. Spending History:**

The Friends of the Detroit Lakes WMD were funded for similar work during the last two HCP funding cycles for a total of \$70,000. Before that, the DLWMD was funded for the same type of wetland restoration work through LCCMR for \$20,000.

## **VII. DISSEMINATION:**

Periodic progress reports, project completion reports, and pertinent GIS data will be shared with other state and federal resource management agencies, state colleges and universities, and made available to the State Electronic Library and other information depositories as part of overall project implementation. Pertinent information will also be provided to the overall project website as it is developed. In addition, work program progress will be publicized through the USFWS' Accomplishment Reporting System and its Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than 1 May and 1 Nov. 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:**

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)											
Project Title: <i>Wetland Restoration in the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District</i>											
Project Manager Name: <i>Greg Hoch</i>											
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 45,000											
2010 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance 1</u> <u>June 2010</u>	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance (date)</u>	<u>Result 3 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance (date)</u>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
	<i>Wetland Restoration</i>			<i>Fill in your result title here.</i>			<i>Fill in your result title here.</i>				
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>											
<b>Contracts</b>											
Professional/technical - Wetlands will be identified and delineated by FWS staff. Contractors will remove fill/silt from wetlands, place fill into ditch, and grade the wetland and ditch to restore as much of the original topography as possible. Once completed, the areas will be seeded with local ecotype seed by FWS staff.	45,000	0								45,000	
<b>Other contracts</b> <i>(with whom?, for what?) list out: personnel, equipment, etc.</i>											
<b>Other direct operating costs</b> <i>(for what? – be specific)</i>											
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>