

**Trust Fund 2009 Work Program and  
Trust Fund 2010 Work Program**

**Date of Report:** February 1, 2010

**Date of Next 2009 and 2010 Status Report:** August 1, 2010

	<b>M.L. 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2010</b>
<b>Date of Work Program Approval:</b>	June 16, 2009	
<b>Project Completion Date:</b>	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2012

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V – Friends of the MN Valley – 2.4, Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project [M.L. 2009]  
Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V Supplement – Friends of the MN Valley – 2.4, Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project [M.L. 2010]

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**Location:** Lower Minnesota River Watershed of Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Sibley, and Scott Counties

	<b>M.L. 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>			
<b>Trust Fund Appropriation:</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

**Legal Citation:**

**M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(f)**

**Appropriation Language:**

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fifth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$2,185,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,190,000 is for agreements as follows: \$380,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$90,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$155,000 with Great River Greening; \$250,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$90,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at

least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. 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.

**M.L. 2010, Chp. 362 , Sec. 2, Subd. 4(g)**

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,750,000 is added to Laws 2009, chapter 143, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (f), from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,750,000 is for agreements as follows: \$890,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$485,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$325,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$50,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. 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:**

M.L. 2009: Restore and/or enhance 90 acres of significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. An additional 45 acres will be restored and/or enhanced using other, non-state funds.

M.L. 2010: Restore and/or enhance 50 acres of significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors, including wetlands, prairie, and oak savanna, focusing on the Minnesota River Corridor within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. An additional 25 acres will be restored and/or enhanced using other, non-state funds.

### **III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2010:**

M.L. 2009: We are still completing MeCC Phase IV projects and have not yet commenced work on Phase V.

M.L. 2010: N.A.

### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result/Activity 1:** Restore and/or enhance significant habitat

**Description:**

M.L. 2009:

Restore and enhance 90 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat throughout the MeCC mapped corridors of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed within Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Sibley, and/or Scott Counties. An additional 45 acres will be restored/enhanced using other, non-state funds.

Restoration efforts will focus on public lands including the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, land purchased by the Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc., and on private lands. Priority will be given to permanently protected lands. Restorations on private lands will be protected through a minimum 10 year landowner agreement through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program. Projects will be selected based on but not limited to: ecological importance of area, based on size, habitat quality, buffering of existing high quality habitat, water quality benefits, connectivity to other natural areas, matching funds, and partner interest and commitment.

Friends of the MN Valley and its partners will restore and enhance the hydrology of wetlands such as shallow lakes, for the benefit of wildlife and water quality, plant retired agricultural fields to prairie using native ecotype seed, remove and manage exotic species, and restore important floodplain forest communities along the Minnesota River. Following LCCMR local ecotype guidelines, only native plant species will be used with specific native seed mixes being adjusted for local site conditions and availability. All contracts will be awarded based upon a competitive, experience, and performance basis.

Ecological restoration and management plans will be developed prior to restoration work. With the underlying goal to restore a self sustaining ecosystem, the restoration plans meet or exceed the project requirements as laid out by the LCCMR (M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 11. Project Requirements) and utilize natural processes to the extent possible to help establish and maintain the best restoration. Elements of the restoration and management plans will include a description of current conditions including biotic and abiotic elements; descriptions of target communities; descriptions of proposed restoration methodology; evaluation processes utilized for determining the effectiveness of restoration; and proposed ongoing management activities and responsibilities. Restoration and management plans will be developed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in consultation with Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

M.L. 2010:

Restore and enhance 50 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat throughout the MeCC mapped corridors of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed within Carver, LeSueur, Sibley, and/or Scott Counties. An additional 25 acres will be restored/enhanced using other, non-state funds.

Restoration efforts will focus on public lands including the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and on lands that will become new refuge units purchased by the Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. Projects will be selected based on but not limited to: ecological importance of area, based on size, habitat quality, buffering of existing high quality habitat, water quality benefits, connectivity to other natural areas, matching funds, and partner interest and commitment.

Friends of the MN Valley and its partners will restore and enhance the hydrology of wetlands such as shallow lakes, for the benefit of wildlife and water quality, plant retired agricultural fields to prairie using native ecotype seed, remove and manage exotic species, and restore important floodplain forest communities along the Minnesota River. Following local ecotype guidelines, only native plant species will be used with specific native seed mixes being adjusted for local site conditions and availability. Restoration and management plans will be developed prior to restoration work. Contracts will be awarded based upon a competitive, experience, and performance basis.

All restoration and enhancement work will be permanently protected and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Ecological restoration and management plans will be developed prior to restoration work. With the underlying goal to restore a self sustaining ecosystem, the restoration plans meet or exceed the project requirements as laid out by the LCCMR (M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 11. Project Requirements) and utilize natural processes to the extent possible to help establish and maintain the best restoration. Elements of the restoration and management plans will include a description of current conditions including biotic and abiotic elements; descriptions of target communities; descriptions of proposed restoration methodology; evaluation processes utilized for determining the effectiveness of restoration; and proposed ongoing management activities and responsibilities. Restoration and management plans will be developed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in consultation with Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

See attached project list.

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

	<b>M.L. 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

<b>Deliverable/Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>1. M.L. 2009</b> Restore and/or enhance 90 acres	June 15, 2011	\$ 90,000
<b>2. M.L. 2010</b> Restore and/or enhance 50 acres	June 30, 2012	\$50,000
<b>3.</b>		

**Result Completion Date:** M.L. 2009: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011; M.L. 2010: June 30, 2012

**Result Status as of:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

M.L. 2009: We have not yet commenced work on MeCC Phase V.

**Result Status as of:** August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

M.L. 2009:

M.L. 2010:

**Result Status as of:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

M.L. 2009:

M.L. 2010:

**M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary:**

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

**Result Status as of:** February 1, 2012:

**M.L. 2010 Final Report Summary:**

**V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: 90,000**

M.L. 2009:

**Personnel:** \$15,000 - FMV Conservation Projects Manager (.12 FTE)

**Contracts:** \$ 50,000 (for earthwork contractors to install water control structures, build earthen dams, break drainage tile lines, field prep, seed installation, invasive species removal, etc.)

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$ 25,000 (for native seed and trees, water control structures, herbicide, chainsaws, gloves, etc.)

**Acquisition, including easements:** \$ NA

**Travel:** \$ 0

**Other:** \$ 0

**TOTAL 2009 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 90,000**

M.L. 2010:

**Personnel:** \$ 5,000 – Conservation Project Coordinator (.16 FTE)

**Contracts:** \$ 35,000 (for earthwork contractors to install water control structures, build earthen dams, break drainage tile lines, field prep, seed installation, invasive species removal, etc.)

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$ 10,000 for supplies only (includes native seed and trees, water control structures, herbicide). Herbicide cost is estimated at approximately \$500, water control structures at around \$2,500 and native seed and trees at around \$7,000.

**Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):** \$ 0

**Travel:** \$ 0

**Additional Budget Items:** \$ 0

**TOTAL 2010 ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$50,000**

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

**VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., local units of government, private landowners, and other partners.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** Restoration efforts will increase breeding/migratory habitat for resident/migrant waterfowl including wood ducks and lesser

scaup, resident/migrant shorebirds, as well as a myriad of other species including resident game species such as pheasant and deer. Restoration efforts will improve and protect the water quality of the Minnesota River and its tributaries through wetland restoration and restoring retired cropland to native habitat such as prairie and floodplain forest. Friends of the Minnesota Valley will continue to restore and enhance significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed.

**C. Other Funds Proposed to be spent during the Project Period:** M.L. 2009: \$45,000 Non-State cash and in-kind. M.L. 2010: \$25,000 Non-State cash and in-kind. Match includes partner match and in-kind, primarily from USFWS and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust.

**D. Spending History:** ETF - 2001: \$ 0; 2003: \$ 18,000 (BRP); 2005: \$ 40,000 (MeCC)  
2007: \$34,000; 2008: \$107,000;  
Other Funds - : \$ 0; 2003: \$ 0; 2005: \$ 5,000 (MeCC); 2007: \$5,000  
2009: \$54,000

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** As projects are completed, Friends of the Minnesota Valley will publicize project accomplishments through press releases, the Friends' quarterly newsletter, and post projects on our website. Other dissemination of information will be through the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership and on the Metro Corridors website.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 2010, August 2010 and February 2011. 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

**Proposed Restoration Projects - Friends of the MN Valley Phase V and Phase V Supplemental**

Jessenland Unit Restoration                      Sibley County                      Wetland/Savanna/Floodplain Forest

Restoration Phase I (Construction) – ENRTF Funding – 2011 Completion – 400 Acres  
Approximately 25 acres of Type I, II, and VI wetlands will be restored by breaking drain tile, shallow scraping, and constructing earthen dams within drainage ditches. Wetlands will also be seeded with native wetland species. Local ecotype oak savanna grasses and forbs have been planted to restore approximately 101 acres. After the grasses are established, oak trees will be planted to complete the oak savanna restoration. Exotic species such as buckthorn will be mechanically and chemically treated to allow native species to re-establish or expand. In addition, woody species will be removed to create firebreaks for future fire management of the oak savanna.

Restoration Phase II (Management and Maintenance) – Non-ENRTF Funding – Ongoing  
After completion of Phase I, the land will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, protected and managed in perpetuity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS will manage and monitor the restoration and will ensure the long term success of the project through multiple mechanisms including prescribed fire, exotic species control, and ecological assessment.

This restoration is an important piece in linking floodplain forest habitats in the Jessenland Conservation Area Boundary. When combined with adjacent downstream parcels, the restoration will connect the Jessenland Unit of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and complement the permanently protected RIM and CREP habitat easements on the Scott County side of the Minnesota River.

Henderson Unit Restoration                      Sibley/Scott County                      Wetland/Floodplain Forest

Restoration Phase I (Construction) – ENRTF Funding – 2011 Completion – 1250 Acres  
Agricultural fields totaling 80 acres will be converted to floodplain forest and shallow riverine wetland habitats. Approximately 50 acres of Type I, II, and III wetlands will be restored by breaking drain tile, shallow scraping, and constructing earthen dams within drainage ditches. Wetlands will also be seeded with native local ecotype wetland species. Exotic species such as buckthorn will be mechanically and chemically treated to allow native species to re-establish or expand.

Restoration Phase II (Management and Maintenance) – Non-ENRTF Funding – Ongoing  
After completion of Phase I, the land will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, protected and managed in perpetuity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS will manage and monitor the restoration and will ensure the long term success of the project through multiple mechanisms including prescribed fire, exotic species control, and ecological assessment.

St. Lawrence Unit Restoration                      Scott County

Restoration Phase I (Construction) – ENRTF Funding – 2011 Completion – 160 Acres

The absence of fire has resulted in the encroachment of woody species within the wetland and prairie, specifically cedar trees. Cedars and other woody species such as buckthorn will be mechanically removed and chemically treated to allow native species to re-establish and expand. In addition, approximately 20 acres of Type I, II, and III wetlands will be restored by breaking drain tile, shallow scraping, and constructing earthen dams within drainage ditches. Wetlands will also be seeded with native local ecotype wetland species.

Restoration Phase II (Management and Maintenance) – Non-ENRTF Funding – Ongoing  
The property is located within the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and is permanently protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After completion of Phase I, the USFWS will manage and monitor the restoration and will ensure the long term success of the project through multiple mechanisms including prescribed fire, exotic species control, and ecological assessment.

This restoration will provide high quality habitat for nesting, breeding, and brood-rearing of migratory waterfowl and birds. In addition, the close proximity to other permanently protected lands (state and federal) magnifies the potential benefit to wildlife, water quality, and recreational opportunities.





Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Friends of the MN Valley						
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V Supplement – Friends of the MN Valley – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project						
Project Manager Name: Scott Sparli, Watershed Initiative Coordinator						
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 50,000						
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						
2010 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE	
	Restore and/or enhance 50 Acres					
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>						
<b>PERSONNEL: wages and benefits</b> (Project Manager - Scott Sparlin- .16 FTE)	5,000			5,000	5,000	
<b>Contracts</b>						
<b>Professional/technical</b> (for earthwork contractors to install water control structures, build earthen dams, break drainage tile lines, field prep, seed installation, invasive species removal, etc.)	35,000			35,000	35,000	
<b>Supplies</b> (for native seed and trees, water control structures, herbicide): Herbicide (\$500) Native Seed & Trees (\$7,000) Water Control Structures (\$2,500)	10,000			10,000	10,000	
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	