

M.L. 2011 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas (2g)

PROJECT MANAGER: Jami Markle

AFFILIATION: MN DNR

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2g

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$30,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. DNR, Section of Wildlife administers and manages habitat restoration and development of infrastructure necessary for public access on lands acquired by partners for State WMAs. Habitat restoration and infrastructure development of new WMAs needs to be tied to the proposed land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). This project funding component (2g) ensured that the DNR had funding available to complete necessary initial site development and habitat restoration for newly acquired lands when they are transferred from the partner organizations to the DNR for long term management. Adequate funding ensures that newly acquired lands can be entered into the WMA system on a timely basis.

Funding from this HCP project (2g) provided for the demolition of several dilapidated buildings along with site cleanup and rehabilitation at the newly acquired Dora Lake WMA in Le Sueur County. Removal of the farmstead buildings and debris at Dora Lake was an important first step in providing wildlife habitat and making the unit safe for public users. Two newly acquired WMA parcels, Rice Lake WMA in Faribault County and Sanborn Lake WMA in Le Sueur County received professional boundary surveys in preparation for posting and public use.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Outcomes from this HCP project (2g) will directly benefit public use of three newly acquired WMA properties. Safe and clearly signed WMA properties are a visible indicator of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund accomplishments on the landscape.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: 12/12/2013

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? No

Project Title: HCP VII - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas (2g)

Project Manager: Jami Markle

Affiliation: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

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Email Address: jami.markle@state.mn.us

Web Address: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	30,000
	Amount Spent \$:	29,908
	Balance \$:	92

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2g

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land 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 habitable 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. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: 2g - HCP7- Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. DNR, Section of Wildlife administers and manages habitat restoration and development of infrastructure necessary for public access on lands acquired by partners for State WMAs. Habitat restoration and infrastructure development of new WMAs needs to be tied to the proposed land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). This project funding component (2g) ensured that the DNR had funding available to complete necessary initial site development and habitat restoration for newly acquired lands when they are transferred from the partner organizations to the DNR for long term management. Adequate funding ensures that newly acquired lands can be entered into the WMA system on a timely basis.

Funding from this HCP project (2g) provided for the demolition of several dilapidated buildings along with site cleanup and rehabilitation at the newly acquired Dora Lake WMA in Le Sueur County. Removal of the farmstead buildings and debris at Dora Lake was an important first step in providing wildlife habitat and making the unit safe for public users. Two newly acquired WMA parcels, Rice Lake WMA in Faribault County and Sanborn Lake WMA in Le Sueur County received professional boundary surveys in preparation for posting and public use.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (May 24, 2012): WMA development funding from this appropriation has not been spent to date. The DNR Wildlife Section continues to monitor and track the acquisition status of key parcels that will require development work to meet minimum standards for inclusion as WMAs under the Outdoor Recreation System. It is likely that projects will be identified during the summer and fall of 2012, as HCP acquisition parcels are optioned and closed. Initial Development Plans will be created for these sites, outlining costs and means to accomplish habitat and facility development objectives.

Project Status as of (November 28, 2012): DNR requisitions have been submitted for initial development work on two new Wildlife Management Area additions purchased in fee title by partner organizations utilizing HCP VII funding. The 510 acre Cannon River 1 parcel purchased by Trust for Public Lands has been transferred to DNR as an addition to Dora Lake WMA in Le Sueur County. Another 160 acre parcel in Le Sueur County was purchased in fee title by Pheasants Forever to be transferred to DNR as Sanborn Lake WMA. These projects will include surveying, boundary posting, site cleanup, and seeding. Work on these properties will begin during the winter months and continue into the spring of 2013.

Amendment Request (November 28, 2012): The initial development work identified for new LCCMR partner acquisitions in Le Sueur County will be accomplished through contracting, rather than through DNR staff or resources. This amendment request does not change the scope of the work, but rather shifts funding originally requested for DNR personnel, equipment, and fleet to the budget lines for contracts.

Amendment approved by LCCMR staff, December 14, 2012.

Project Status as of (May, 2013): DNR recently prepared contract specs to remove buildings and clean up an old farmstead site on the newly acquired Dora Lake WMA. The project is currently out to bid and the contracted site clean-up work will commence in June, 2013. Two other WMA properties have been surveyed and will be posted with boundary signs as part of the new WMA development process. Both of the surveyed tracts were donated to DNR by Pheasants Forever.

Project Status as of (November, 2013): Contracted site cleanup work at Dora Lake WMA has been completed, along with professional survey and boundary posting at Rice Lake WMA and Sanborn Lake WMA.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restoration of habitat for wildlife

Description: HCP Partners have estimated that 200 acres will be acquired and transferred to DNR, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. Habitat restoration for wildlife on the acquired land may include but is not limited to grassland development or improvement, wetland restoration or impoundment development, forest or woody cover development or improvement, brush land management, professional services, and food plot development. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement restoration on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
Amount Spent: \$ 15,000
Balance: \$ 0

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
3. Service Contracts: contracts for labor and land management activities such as site prep, seeding, etc.	June 30, 2014	\$ 15,000

Activity Status as of (May 24, 2012): No activity to date.

Activity Status as of (November 28, 2012): No expenditures to date. Requisitions for habitat enhancement contract work have been submitted and are in process. Funding for these projects will be encumbered during the winter months, with the bulk of the work occurring in the spring of 2013.

Activity Status as of (May 20, 2013): \$15,000 has been encumbered in a bid request to remove the buildings and debris from the farmstead at Dora Lake WMA (Trust for Public Lands acquisition) so the site can be restored as wildlife habitat. The project is currently out for bids, funding tied to the contract will be expended during the summer of 2013. This activity is an important precursor to development of woody cover and grassland habitat on this new WMA property.

Final Report Summary: A contract was awarded for the building demolition and site cleanup at Dora Lake WMA (Trust for Public Lands acquisition). The Dora Lake site clean-up and initial development is an important step in providing wildlife habitat on this newly acquired WMA parcel.

ACTIVITY 2: Development of infrastructure necessary for public access on WMAs

Description: Infrastructure management may include but is not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, professional services, public access, parking lots, user facilities, and clean up of old buildings or wells. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement development on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
Amount Spent: \$ 14,908
Balance: \$ 92

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
2. Professional/Technical Contracts: DNR engineering services, land surveys, historical/cultural review contracts.	June 30, 2014	\$ 15,000

Activity Status as of (May 24, 2012): No activity to date.

Activity Status as of (November 28, 2012): No expenditures to date. Requisitions for surveying and site cleanup have been submitted and are in process. Cultural and environmental reviews have been initiated. Funding for these projects will be encumbered during the winter months, with the bulk of the work taking place in the spring of 2013.

Activity Status as of (May 20, 2013): To date, professional surveys have been funded for Sanborn Lake WMA and Rice Lake WMA. As a result, property boundaries will be posted as part of the initial development of these newly acquired lands. Both of these properties were acquired by Pheasants Forever with LCCMR funding and donated to DNR to become part of the WMA system.

Final Report Summary: Professional boundary surveys and posting have been completed for Sanborn Lake WMA and Rice Lake WMA.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Accomplishment Reports and press releases will be made available at the Habitat Conservation Partnership website <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org> and the LCCMR website. Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted as required. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted as requested by the LCCMR staff.

Status as of (May 24, 2012): N/A.

Status as of (November 28, 2012): No activity to date.

Status as of (May 20, 2013): No activity to date.

Status as of (November, 2013): No activity to date.

Final Report Summary: Outcomes from this HCP project (2g) will directly benefit public use of three newly acquired WMA properties. Safe and clearly signed WMA properties are a visible indicator of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund accomplishments on the landscape.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 15,000	DNR engineering services, land surveys, historical/cultural review contracts.
Service Contracts	\$ 15,000	Land management service contracts for labor, spraying, vegetation management.
Other:		
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 30,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: No full-time permanent classified DNR staff will be paid from this budget.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A.

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
230 – Game & Fish Funds	\$ 5,000	\$ 5000	Personnel, existing equipment, and supplies.
230 – Game & Fish Funds	\$ 378	\$ 378	Shared Services (operations support governance) are services that DNR relies on in order to conduct business and support the work of the department. These services are more efficient when shared.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 5,378	\$ 5,378	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) is a partner in the nonprofit organization of Habitat Conservation Partnership. The mission of Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations.

Member Organizations include: Ducks Unlimited * Fond du Lac Reservation * Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe * Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources * Minnesota Deer Hunters Association * Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Land Trust * Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. * National Wild Turkey Federation * Pheasants Forever * Red Lake Band of Chippewa * The Nature Conservancy * Trust for Public Land * U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service * U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

State the dollar amount each partner will receive from the appropriation (the following partners are receiving funds from this appropriation):

Organization	Appropriation Amount
Pheasants Forever – HCP Coordination	\$55,000
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$50,000
DNR – 2g-HCP7	\$30,000
DNR - 2h-HCP7	\$200,000
Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Mgmt Div	\$75,000
MN Land Trust	\$450,000
Ducks Unlimited – Shallow Lakes	\$500,000
Ducks Unlimited – WRP	\$775,000
Pheasants Forever – Acquisition	\$430,000
The Trust For Public Land	\$490,000
MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc.	\$400,000
DNR – 4i-HCP7	\$20,000

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is needed as long as the partnership exists and lands are being acquired by the partners that will be transferred to the DNR as part of the WMA system. The DNR needs to budget the amount necessary to manage, restore and maintain these newly acquired units.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$28,751	\$47,185	\$29,102	\$50,000	

(add or remove rows and columns as needed)

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

Please refer to the DNR’s Biennial Acquisition Plans available on the DNR website. New acquisitions must be approved by the DNR before accepted from the partner organization. DNR cannot start work until the Partners have completed acquisition and transferred legal ownership of new parcels. DNR and Partners have estimated that 200 acres will be acquired and transferred to state ownership, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. The work completed under this proposal is dependent on the acres, types, and condition of lands acquired by the partners.

IX. MAP(S):

The project focuses programs and resources on identified project focus areas that have high potential for restoring and enhancing functional habitats benefiting Minnesota. *See attached Map titled, “Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed phase VII Project Areas.*

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted twice each year or not later than May 2012, November 2012, May 2013, and November 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: 2g - HCP 7 - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2g								
Project Manager: Jami Markle								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$30,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014								
Date of Final Report: Dec. 5, 2013								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 revised as of 12-14-2012	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 revised as of 12-14-2012	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM								
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Temporary or intermittent staff for initial site facility development and habitat restoration work.</i>			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
Professional/Technical Contracts <i>DNR engineering services, land surveys, historical/cultural review contracts.</i>			\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,908.00	\$ 92.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 92.00
Service contracts <i>Land management service contracts for labor, spraying, vegetation management.</i>	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>For initial facility development and restoration of acquired acres using DNR equipment such as drills, seeders, and hand tools. Supplies include gravel for parking lots, posts, signs and seed.</i>			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Fleet costs for vehicles and equipment.</i>			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$14,908	\$92	\$30,000	\$92