

## **2011 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

**PROJECT TITLE:** Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Rich Perrine

**AFFILIATION:** Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 923 N State St, Ste 110

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Fairmont, MN 56031

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**WEBSITE:** <http://www.martinswcd.net>

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$147,000

### **Overall Project Outcome and Results**

The project focus was to accelerate the local ecotype seed availability of declining species for use on restoration projects. This project was undertaken in large part because 90 of the 238 species documented so far in Martin County by the Minnesota County Biological Survey of 2009 are considered to be at-risk. Native seeds were collected from 118 species off 33 different sites and we monitored additional prairie remnants. This project protected remaining native populations and expanded populations to new sites, enhancing environmental conditions and improving habitat diversity for wildlife.

This project continuously proved to be a great educational opportunity. Each fall, area high school students were taught native plant species and assisted in native seed collection. High school athletic groups also volunteered with native seed collection. Over 250 people have been reached through one-on-one interactions. We have also heard repeatedly from these individuals that once they learn a little about native plant species, they continue to learn more independently and share the knowledge they have gained with others. We also educated landowners and students about identifying and distinguishing between native and invasive species. We have also gained a number of new volunteers.

Native seeds were planted on 22 protected sites. Sites that had been previously planted were monitored. Photographs were taken to document both the native stands and progress on the planted areas. A local conservation organization, Fox Lake Conservation League, provided land for plant propagation. From this site, we were able to propagate a variety of species, including Butterfly weed, Prairie phlox, Cream wild indigo, and others.

We also monitored the populations of Tuberous Indian plantain, Sullivant's milkweed, Small white lady slipper, Showy milkweed, Prairie bush clover and Eared false foxglove. Two additional Small white lady slipper populations were discovered during this project, bringing the total to three locations in Martin County. Martin SWCD visited and inventoried numerous sites with MCIA to source verify native stands and document populations on sites that will be planted.

Overall, this project greatly increased local ecotype native plant materials and increased the knowledge Minnesotans have of their environment.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

Information from this project was discussed numerous times during the Martin SWCD weekly radio program. "Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species" was written about six times in the county-wide Conservation Update. This project was also discussed repeatedly with area students, local conservation organizations, and other Soil and Water Conservation Districts. First Rite of Spring events were also held where local residents are invited to look at the first Pasque flowers and other early spring plant species. One-on-one interactions with local citizens also proved to be a very effective way to share information learned from this project. We also gained new volunteers who were interested in learning more about native plant species.



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

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**Date of Status Update:** 8/15/14  
**Date of Next Status Update:** Final Report  
**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 6/23/2011  
**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Project Title:** Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

**Project Manager:** Rich Perrine

**Affiliation:** Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Address:** 923 N State St, Ste 110

**City:** Fairmont **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 56031

**Telephone Number:** (507) 235-6680

**Email Address:** richard.perrine@mn.nacdnet.net

**Web Address:** <http://www.martinswcd.net>

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**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, Watonwan

**Ecological Section Impacted:** North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

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<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	147,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	135,583
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	11,417

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

**Appropriation Language:**

\$73,000 the first year and \$74,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for an agreement with the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District to collect, propagate, and plant declining, at-risk native species on protected habitat and to enhance private market sources for local ecotype native seed. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

**II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The project focus was to accelerate the local ecotype seed availability of declining species for use on restoration projects. This project was undertaken in large part because 90 of the 238 species documented so far in Martin County by the Minnesota County Biological Survey of 2009 are considered to be at-risk. Native seeds were collected from 118 species off 33 different sites and we monitored additional prairie remnants. This project protected remaining native populations and expanded populations to new sites, enhancing environmental conditions and improving habitat diversity for wildlife.

This project continuously proved to be a great educational opportunity. Each fall, area high school students were taught native plant species and assisted in native seed collection. High school athletic groups also volunteered with native seed collection. Over 250 people have been reached through one-on-one interactions. We have also heard repeatedly from these individuals that once they learn a little about native plant species, they continue to learn more independently and share the knowledge they have gained with others. We also educated landowners and students about identifying and distinguishing between native and invasive species. We have also gained a number of new volunteers.

Native seeds were planted on 22 protected sites. Sites that had been previously planted were monitored. Photographs were taken to document both the native stands and progress on the planted areas. A local conservation organization, Fox Lake Conservation League, provided land for plant propagation. From this site, we were able to propagate a variety of species, including Butterfly weed, Prairie phlox, Cream wild indigo, and others.

We also monitored the populations of Tuberous Indian plantain, Sullivant's milkweed, Small white lady slipper, Showy milkweed, Prairie bush clover and Eared false foxglove. Two additional Small white lady slipper populations were discovered during this project, bringing the total to three locations in Martin County. Martin SWCD visited and inventoried numerous sites with MCIA to source verify native stands and document populations on sites that will be planted.

Overall, this project greatly increased local ecotype native plant materials and increased the knowledge Minnesotans have of their environment.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of:** January 31, 2012

Local ecotype seed has been collected from 18 prairie remnant sites. Through the Native Buffer program, we have planted seed mixes on nine sites where seed will in turn be harvested at a later date. The Native Buffer plantings are planted primarily along shorelines or near wells in order to reduce runoff and improve water quality. The seed mixes contain a number of species considered at-risk locally. We have also done plant surveys on a few sites for future plantings. The goal of site visits is to identify the current species on site and which species are not present and can thus be added.

A local nursery, Trimont Greenhouse & Floral Shop, has agreed to assist in increasing the number of plants available for planting and seed gathering. Other local seed growers have also been contacted regarding the project.

Martin SWCD has partnered with local organizations and student groups to remove invasive species under the Cooperative Weed Management program, which is administered by the Greater Blue Earth

## Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

River Basin Alliance (GBERBA). With this program we have cleared invasive plants, such as buckthorn. This process allows for the planting of native species in the future on the cleared off sites. Local groups involved include Fox Lake Conservation League, Martin County 4-H Clubs, local scout troops, and Fairmont and Martin County West High School.

### **Project Status as of:** July 31, 2012

Local ecotype seed has continued to be collected from 18 prairie remnant sites. Martin County staff members and MCC summer interns have also been cleaning and preparing collected seeds for planting. Additional landowners have been enrolled in the BWSR Native Buffer program for local ecotype plantings on their property. We have also been monitoring the native prairie remnant sites for plant species which are rare to the area.

### **Project Status as of:** January 31, 2013

We have continued to collect seed from prairie remnant sites in Martin County. MCC summer interns spent considerable time collecting as well as cleaning local ecotype seed. We also have continued our partnership with Martin County West High School, which is an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about native plant species. We help them with their field trips and they help us with native seed collection.

The Small white lady slipper populations were monitored this year. 186 plants were recorded and GPS locations were taken for the two small populations. Photographs were taken of individual flowers and clumps of two, three and four. We identified the formation of seed pods on three of the flowering plants. After the pods dried up, the pods were collected from two of the plants. The pods have been left to dry and will be opened soon to see if there will be seed to plant.

### **Project Status as of:** July 31, 2013

Martin SWCD staff members, as well as an MCC summer intern, have been spending time cleaning and preparing seeds for planting. We have also continued to monitor native sites in Martin County. Staff members continue to work with landowners on the Native Buffer program in preparation for local ecotype plantings.

### **Project Status as of:** January 31, 2014

Martin SWCD full-time and part-time staff members continued to collect seeds from prairie remnants and continued to clean collected seeds for future plantings. Sites that had been previously planted were monitored. We also worked to educate landowners about identifying and distinguishing between native and invasive species. Photographs were taken to document both the native stands and progress on the planted areas. The planted areas have been primarily near bodies of water and wells, providing the added benefit of protecting water quality.

## **IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Locate and collect at-risk local ecotype native plants.

**Description:** Locate additional native prairie remnants, get permission from landowners, identify and collect at-risk species. Ask prairie remnant owners to donate plant materials for project use, but if needed, landowners will be paid for plant materials collected from their property. Train seasonal workers and volunteers to identify and enter waypoints into GPS units for documentation and plant re-location. Employ a bidding process for greenhouse space and/or open space on private land for seed germination and propagation from plant cuttings for species which rarely produce seed, to maximize survivability of at-risk species.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 103,700  
**Amount Spent:** \$ 99,186  
**Balance:** \$ 4,514

**Activity Completion Date: 6-30-2014**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Use GPS and GIS to track species, share data with DNR and U of MN. Fill large data gaps in MCBS of known native species in Martin County.	6-01-2014	\$5,000
2. Concentrate collection efforts on at-risk species and obtain additional permits from DNR for threatened and endangered species thus ensuring long-term protection of local ecotype plant genetics.	12-31-2013	\$79,600
3. Maintain Yellow Tag eligibility through MN Crop Improvement Assn.	6-01-2014	\$14,600
4. Maximize propagation of species with low seed production through lease of greenhouse space and/or open space.	5-31-2014	\$4,500

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2012

Full-time staff and Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) interns have marked almost 100 sites of specific native plant populations using GPS. These sites hold populations of Tuberous Indian plantain, Sullivant's milkweed, Small white lady slipper, Yellow sundrops, Ground plum, Fringed puccoon, and other species rare to the region. This process is critical to locating species with small populations in future years for seed collecting. Full-time and part-time staff have spent a number of hours collecting seeds from locally at-risk species. Plants, including Pasque flower, Wild onion, Blazing star and multiple varieties of rushes and sedges, were transplanted from two native prairie sites that were going to be planted to row crops. We have also cleaned, sorted, and organized some of the seed that has been collected in 2011. This has increased the amount of local ecotype seed available for planting in Martin County. We purchased gloves and bags to aid in seed collection.

Martin SWCD has been working with Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) to source verify native stands. MCIA inspected five sites during September and identified 114 different plant species. Site inspections are one step in maintaining Yellow Tag (source identified) eligibility.

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2012

Additional sites of native plant populations have been marked using GPS. Staff performed an extensive inventory of the only Small white lady slipper population known in the county. Every known population of Sullivant's milkweed in the county was also marked and the number of plants counted. We have also marked populations of Tuberous Indian plantain and Prairie bush clover. These species are both

## Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

identified as threatened in Minnesota. This information will be shared with the DNR. Staff members have also documented populations of Toothed evening primrose and American bittersweet, both of which are rare to the area. Staff members have also collected seed from a number of species already this year. Seeds have been collected from Fringed puccoon, Wild plum, Pasque flower, Wild garlic, Green needle grass, Porcupine grass and Prairie violet, as well as from other native plants.

Martin SWCD has also transplanted species that were started from seed. The species with the most successful germination rates so far include Prairie turnip, Porcupine grass, Fringed puccoon, and Sideoats grama. The Fringed puccoon was seeded with the Sideoats grama. Staff members have also continued to work with MCIA towards maintaining Yellow Tag eligibility.

### **Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2013

We have continued to monitor the populations of Tuberous Indian plantain, Sullivant's milkweed, and Small white lady slipper. GPS points were also taken of Showy milkweed and Slender false foxglove.

Martin SWCD visited and inventoried 17 sites with MCIA to source verify native stands and document populations on sites that will be planted. We collected seed from a variety of plant species, including Prairie phlox, Butterfly weed, Round headed bush clover, Purple prairie clover, and a variety of sedges and rushes. We purchased gloves and bags to aid in seed collection.

Several Tuberous Indian plantain plants flowered and produced seed. Sullivant's milkweed produced pods and mature seed for the first time since monitoring began about 10 years ago. It was a milkweed year, with over 250 stems and clusters of blooms observed compared to less than 20 stems in previous years. Towards fall, Eared false foxglove plants were identified by project staff for the first time in Martin County. They were in bloom, but with the drought, it is uncertain if any of the seed pods produced viable seed.

### **Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2013

Martin SWCD staff members have continued to monitor populations of native plants in the county. Native remnants containing Pasque flower, Tuberous Indian plantain, and Small white lady slipper, in addition to other species, were closely watched. Staff members also continued MCIA paperwork for source verification of native stands.

### **Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2014

The only known locations of Prairie bush clover, Tuberous Indian plantain, and Sullivant's milkweed in Martin County were monitored, documented, and photographed repeatedly during the second half of 2013. Full-time and part-time staff members continued to collect seeds from locally at-risk species. This has increased the amount of local ecotype seed available for planting in Martin County. Some of the main species collected include Prairie phlox, Side oats grama, Heart leaf alexanders, Butterfly weed, False indigo, American bittersweet, and Indian grass.

### **Final Report Summary:** July 31, 2014

Martin SWCD staff members repeatedly monitored and took GPS points of native plant species. Some of the plants documented include Tuberous Indian plantain, Sullivant's milkweed, Small white lady slipper, Prairie Bush Clover and Eared false foxglove. Over the course of this project, two additional

populations of Small white lady slipper were located and documented by Martin SWCD staff members and shared with DNR. We have also documented populations of Toothed evening primrose and American bittersweet, both of which are rare to the area.

Staff members have also collected seed from a number of species throughout the project. Seeds have been collected from Fringed puccoon, Wild plum, Pasque flower, Prairie phlox, Heart leaf alexanders, Butterfly weed, as well as from many other native plants. A local conservation organization, Fox Lake Conservation League, provided land for plant propagation. From this site, we were able to propagate a variety of species. Martin SWCD also worked with MCIA to source verify native stands.

**ACTIVITY 2:** Increase local ecotype plants on easements and increase market opportunities.

**Description:** Identify eligible landowners and enroll them in the Native Buffer Program. Propagate, plant and maintain at-risk species on permanent easements and native buffer sites to increase the amount of native plant materials available. Create a self-sustaining activity by making production of local ecotype seed and plants commercially feasible for seed growers and nurseries. Bridging the gap between prairie remnants and seed producers is our strategy to create a profitable venture for retailers.

Work with prairie remnant owners, easement owners and native buffer contract holders to develop management strategies to help maintain and increase plant and wildlife diversity on their sites.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 43,300**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 36,397**  
**Balance: \$ 6,903**

	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>1.</b> Increase local awareness of the Native Buffer program.	12-31-2013	\$1,000
<b>2.</b> Propagate and plant at-risk species in groupings will strengthen plant genetics to maximize sustainable seed production each year for 3 years.	06-01-2014	\$36,000
<b>3.</b> Create new opportunities for local seed grower partners to efficiently harvest 100% of plant materials and establish plots for re-sale.	06-01-2014	\$1,300
<b>4.</b> Educate landowners on proper management of their native prairie and forest lands to improve the ecological quality and value of native lands.	05-31-2014	\$5,000

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2012

Nine landowners have enrolled in the BWSR Native Buffer program in 2011. Under this program landowners' sites are planted with local ecotype seeds. When the native plants mature on the site, staff will harvest the seed for additional plantings on other sites. Locally at-risk species have been planted in groupings on the sites. Species planted so far include bottle gentian, rattlesnake master, round-headed bush clover, prairie phlox, compass plant, and tall bellflower, and others. Local seed growers have been contacted to ask for their involvement in the program. So far the Trimont Greenhouse & Floral Shop has agreed to participate.

Through the Cooperative Weed Management Program staff and MCC interns have also removed invasive species on sites that are now being planted with native species. The landowners at planted sites have also learned about the importance of removing invasive species. Local student groups have



also been involved in removing invasive plant species. This provides the added benefit of teaching the students to identify invasive plants in the future.

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2012

Six more landowners have enrolled in the BWSR Native Buffer program. Some of the species planted on these sites to date include: Whorled milkweed, Prairie spiderwort, Wild onion and Butterfly weed. Staff members and MCC interns have also transplanted species that were started from seed, including Prairie turnip, Porcupine grass, Hoary puccoon, Fringed pucoon, Sideoats grama, and Rough blazing star. Martin SWCD has also worked with landowners who are enrolled in Native Buffer to remove invasive species on their sites in preparation for native planting. This provides the additional benefit of educating people about invasive species for identification in the future.

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2013

Five additional landowners have enrolled in the BWSR Native Buffer Program. Four Native Buffer sites were dormant seeded in the fall of 2012. Species seeded include Blue flag iris, Ditch stonecrop, False boneset, Golden alexander, Swamp milkweed, Pale purple coneflower, Bottle gentian, and Prairie Phlox. Buffalo grass and Wild strawberry were also transplanted on one of the sites, in addition to other species.

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2013

Martin SWCD staff members have continued to work with landowners enrolled in the BWSR Native Buffer Program. Full time and part time staff have also been busy cleaning and organizing seed for planting. Martin SWCD has continued transplanting species that were started from seed. Ground plum is a new species that was started from seed and transplanted this spring. Some of the species that were direct seeded this spring include Great blue lobelia, Rattlesnake master, Lead plant, Riddell's goldenrod, Wild garlic, and Dotted blazing star. Ragwort and Prairie violet were also transplanted onto a site. The two species transplanted last year that we had the most success with are Sideoats grama and Rough blazing star.

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2014

Sites were dormant seeded in the fall using a variety of species, including Sweet flag, Yellow coneflower, Prairie cord grass, Heart leaf alexanders, and Prairie phlox. We also planted live cuttings from native remnants of Silky dogwood, False indigo, and willow shrubs. Tall drop seed and Purple prairie clover are two of the species we direct seeded that we have seen great early success with in our native plantings. The species we transplanted earlier also continue to thrive, especially the Rattlesnake master, Rough blazing star, Butterfly weed, and Side oats grama.

Martin SWCD continues to work with and educate landowners whose sites we transplanted previously about proper site maintenance. We have also heard repeatedly from landowners that they enjoy learning to identify native plants.

**Final Report Summary: July 31, 2014**

Native seeds were planted on 22 protected sites. Some of the species that were direct seeded include Great blue lobelia, Rattlesnake master, Lead plant, Riddell's goldenrod, Ditch stonecrop, and Tall drop seed. Some of the species we have had the most success transplanting were Butterfly weed, Rough blazing star, Prairie phlox, and Prairie turnip. We also planted live cuttings from native remnants of Silky dogwood, False indigo, and willow shrubs.

Landowner education was an important component of this project. It is important for people to be able to identify the native species they have on their property. We have heard repeatedly from landowners that once they learn about native plant species, they share the knowledge they have gained with others.

**V. DISSEMINATION**

**Description:**

Project work will be documented in conservation plans for participating landowners. Copies of the plans will be provided to the BWSR St. Paul Central Office for inclusion in cooperator files there. Project progress and results will be posted on the SWCD website: [www.martinswcd.net](http://www.martinswcd.net). The project will be featured in the "Conservation Update" in January of 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Throughout this period, the project will be featured on numerous radio broadcasts and in supplemental educational articles through the local newspapers.

**Status as of:** January 31, 2012

The project has been mentioned during three radio broadcasts in 2011. It is also included in the January 2012 "Conservation Update" which is distributed to every home in Martin County. Information about the project is on the Martin SWCD website. Multiple pictures have also been taken which will be used in future informational materials. This was also a "Featured Project" on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) website during June, 2011.

**Status as of:** July 31, 2012

Martin SWCD staff have discussed "Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species" on two radio broadcasts so far in 2012. An article about the project and an article about the Native Buffer program were in the June edition of Martin SWCD's county-wide "Conservation Update" newsletter.

**Status as of:** January 31, 2013

Martin SWCD staff wrote an article on "Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species" for the January 2013 issue of our county-wide "Conservation Update" newsletter. This project was featured prominently at our County Fair, with many pictures and information available for fair-goers. The project was also the focus of three radio broadcasts. Information about the project is being provided through personal contact with potential project participants who have shown an interest in Cooperative Weed Management and Native Buffer projects.

**Status as of:** July 31, 2013

This project was mentioned during two radio broadcasts. Martin SWCD staff members have displayed materials related to “Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species” during local outreach events. A newspaper article about the project was also written for Martin SWCD’s June edition of the “Conservation Update” which goes out county-wide.

**Status as of:** January 31, 2014

Martin SWCD highlighted the project at our booth during the Martin County Fair. Pictures from the project were the centerpiece of our display boards. An article highlighting “Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species” was in the January edition of our county-wide Conservation Update. Updates on the project are also provided at monthly Martin SWCD Board of Supervisors meetings as well as to local conservation clubs. We also continue to discuss and update the public about our progress during our weekly radio show.

**Final Report Summary:** July 31, 2014

“Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species” was written about six times in the county-wide Conservation Update. This project was also discussed repeatedly with area students, local conservation organizations, and other Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In addition, this project was mentioned numerous times during the Martin SWCD weekly radio program. First Rite of Spring events were also held where local residents are invited to look at the first Pasque flowers and other early spring plant species.

## **VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

### **A. ENRTF Budget:**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel:	\$ 100,000	Project management, supervision and labor
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 14,600	Inspections and tracking for Yellow tag program through MN Crop Improvement Association.
Service Contracts:	\$ 4,500	Space for growing plants.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 1,300	Collection, propagation and planting supplies
Printing:	\$	Provided in-kind
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 6,000	Travel to and from collection and planting sites
Other: Landowner compensation	\$ 20,600	Payment for value of plant materials collected.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$147,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** Oversight and guidance.

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:** 1.5

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b> (In-kind)			
Martin SWCD/partners	\$5,000	\$5,400	Facilities/materials for propagation
Martin SWCD/partners	\$10,000	\$10,365	Tractor, tools, equipment
<b>State</b> (In-kind)			
Agencies, DNR, MVAC, MCC	\$20,000	\$19,875	Guidance, oversight and labor
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$35,640</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Prairie remnant owners, local nurseries, private landowners, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association will receive funding through this project.

Local concerned citizens, school environmental groups, 4-H clubs, local FFA, Boy Scouts, Conservation Clubs and Members, DNR staff, Local Seed Growers, Martin County Board of Commissioners, and Martin County Parks will be providing time and services to the project.

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

Planting and establishing new populations of declining plant species and developing a source of plant materials for future habitat restoration projects should reduce the risk of losing some of these local ecotypes of species that have been losing their habitat over the past few decades. By continuing to plant the less common species as part of habitat restoration projects, their continued presence on the landscape is being encouraged. It will take many years of moving these at-risk species to the appropriate places on the landscape and then protecting them from invasion by non-native species.

**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			\$80,000		
Private Match			\$43,779		

**IX. MAP(S):** General Project Area Map

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:** This project does not have a research component, but if new propagation techniques or procedures are developed, they will be included in the reporting.

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than January 31, 2012, July 31, 2012, January 31, 2013, July 31, 2013 and January 31, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 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: Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species								
Legal Citation: \$73,000 the first year and \$74,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of								
Project Manager: Rich Perrine								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 147,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: (3 years) June 30, 2014								
Date of Update: August 15, 2014								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Locate, track and collect plant materials.			Increase plant materials and market				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) New lead personnel, 100% FTE, Responsible for project oversight and training of other project personnel. 68% toward wages, 32% toward benefits. Position time period: 7/1/11 to 6/30/14. One person in this position. Lead personnel duties may be shared by two or more persons, depending on availability of qualified personnel. (Approximately \$90,000)		47,270			27,700			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) Unclassified, intermittent, as needed. Responsible for plant material identification, collection, propagation and planting. 100% toward wages, 0% benefits. Position time period: 7/1/11 to 6/30/14. Up to four persons in this position. (Approximately \$10,000)		21,930			3,100			
Total Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	69,200	69,200	0	30,800	30,800	0	100,000	0
Professional/Technical Contracts Contract with the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to track genetic origin of native plant materials and maintain "Yellow Tag" eligibility for each species. Includes inspections of collection and planting sites and the tracking documentation. (Approx. \$50/hour)	5,000	2,425	2,575	9,600	3,450	6,150	14,600	8,725
Service contracts Agreements with prairie remnant owners to allow collection of native plant materials from their property. Landowners will be asked to donate their plant materials, but those who wish to be paid, will receive compensation for up to the value of plant materials collected from their land.	20,600	20,600	0				20,600	0
Service contracts Agreements with growers for greenhouse and/or plot space on a per tray and/or square foot basis. A competitive bid process will be used to select the contractor(s).	4,500	4,500	0				4,500	0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies for collecting, cleaning/processing and planting seed. Propagation and transplanting equipment including trays, cells, planting medium, rooting hormone and trowels. cleaning equipment including, screens, containers, the use of screening and cleaning equipment, including potential rent of an air table and/or fanning mill. Hand tools for transplanting including trowels, spades, containers, gloves and miscellaneous supplies. Chemical and hand tools for weed control. (tractor, motorized equipment, including drills and seeder will be provided in-kind)	400	400	0	900	900	0	1,300	0
Travel expenses in Minnesota Mileage, based on the current federal rate and adjusted to match the federeal rate throughout the project timeframe. Miles to, from and between approximately 40 collection sites and up to 50 planting sites.	4,000	2,061	1,939	2,000	1,247	753	6,000	2,692
COLUMN TOTAL	\$103,700	\$99,186	\$4,514	\$43,300	\$36,397	\$6,903	\$147,000	\$11,417







