



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

**Date of Status Update:**

**Date of Next Status Update:** 2/1/2012

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 6/23/2011

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014

**Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title: MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)**

**Project Manager:** Tom Lewanski

**Affiliation:** Friends of the Mississippi River

**Address:** 360 N Robert St, Ste 400

**City:** St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55101

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**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

**Ecological Section Impacted:** Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), Paleozoic Plateau (222L)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	200,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	0
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	200,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1

**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, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through 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 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 that 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: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat**

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY:** – Human land uses have drastically affected the habitat that is available in the Twin Cities metro area. High quality habitat within this region is important for both resident and migratory species. The Metro Conservation Corridors is working to establish a system of ecological functioning corridors that not only provide high quality habitat, but open space and water quality benefits for the residents of the area, as well.

Friends of the Mississippi River has been conducting enhancement/restoration and permanent land protection activities on some of the most important and highest quality habitat within the core metro and southeastern metro corridors for over ten years. The landowner outreach, restoration and enhancement activities that will be conducted in this phase of the project are designed to build on this earlier work, helping to ensure that previous public investment in this habitat improvement is protected and added to. We have focused our work on particular locations within the designated corridors. As a result, we enjoy a high level of momentum in increasing the size and health of the habitat of these natural areas. Many of the crucial components of these projects are in place. Natural resource management plans have been or are being developed, close relationships have been built with the landowners and partners and our staff know the sites well. With this grant we can continue the habitat restoration in a seamless fashion allowing us to benefit from a project infrastructure that is in place.

In this phase of the project, FMR will improve and increase habitat by restoring and enhancing 163 acres of prairie and woodland/forest in Dakota, Washington, Ramsey & Hennepin counties. There are three overall goals for this project: One goal is to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat. Specific activities associated with these outcomes include updating management plans, soil preparation including herbicide, burning, and discing, seed/plant installation, followed by mowing, and weed control.

A second goal is to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is the control of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands. Activities associated with this outcome include updating management plans, cut/treat invasive plants and prescribed burning. Natural resource management plans will have been developed or updated for each of FMR’s sites prior to the initiating restoration or enhancement activities.

FMR will utilize ENRTF (LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. FMR will also secure a landowner agreement for private land projects. The SNA’s and WMA’s, upon which FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities, are owned by the State of Minnesota and therefore, presumably, permanently protected.

A third goal is to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors. FMR will contact 27 landowners to discuss the natural resources on their property, provide information on restoration options, permanent land protection options, and solicit their involvement in habitat improvement. FMR will begin to plan habitat restoration activities with interested landowners and will solicit the involvement of other MeCC partners on projects in which the landowner indicates an interest in pursuing permanent protection for their property through fee title acquisition or a conservation easement. We feel this activity is important to maximize the both the efficiency and effectiveness of the current habitat restoration and enhancement projects by expanding the restoration activities that are taking place in the designated corridors.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of: 2/1/2012**

**Project Status as of: 8/1/2012**

**Project Status as of:** 2/1/2013

**Project Status as of):** 8/1/2013

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Restore and/or enhance 163 acres of prairie and woodland/forest.

**Description:**

There are three overall goals for this project: One goal is to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat. Specific activities associated with these outcomes include updating management plans, soil preparation including herbicide, burning, and discing, seed/plant installation, followed by mowing, and weed control. A second goal is to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is the control of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands. Activities associated with this outcome include updating management plans, cut/treat invasive plant species and prescribed burning. Natural resource management plans will have been developed or updated for each of FMR's sites prior to the initiating restoration or enhancement activities. FMR will develop and send out requests for proposals to vendors, including Conservation Corps Minnesota, for services associated with the restoration and enhancement activities planned. Vendors will be selected based on bid amount, experience with the services requested, experience with site, and quality of similar services provided to FMR in the past.

FMR will conduct an initial evaluation of the restoration and enhancement activities undertaken with ENRTF funding provided through this grant. This evaluation information will be provided in the final report.

FMR will utilize ENRTF (LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. FMR will also secure a landowner agreement for private land projects. The SNA's and WMA's, upon which FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities, are owned by the State of Minnesota and therefore, presumably, permanently protected.

A third goal is to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors. Specific activities include identifying and contacting 27 landowners in proximity to existing projects, meeting with these landowners and sharing information about the natural resources on their property, provide information on restoration options, permanent land protection options, and solicit their involvement in habitat improvement. FMR will begin to plan habitat restoration activities with interested landowners and will solicit the involvement of other MeCC partners on projects in which the landowner indicates an interest in pursuing permanent protection for their property through fee title acquisition or a conservation easement.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 200,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$200,000**

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget (approx.)</b>
1. Conduct prairie restoration activities on 55 acres.	6/30/2013	\$ 52,000
2. Conduct woodland habitat restoration of on 5-acres.	6/30/2013	\$ 30,000
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 41 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2013	\$ 22,000

3. Conduct restoration and enhancement activities on 62 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2013	\$ 90,000
4. Contact 27 landowners and meet with as many as are interested in doing so. Develop a spreadsheet that reports which landowners were contacted, meetings held, and landowners interested in pursuing restoration and/or protection activities.	6/30/2013	\$ 6,000

**Activity Status as of 2/1/2012**

**Activity Status as of 8/1/2012**

**Activity Status as of 2/1/2013**

**Final Report Summary: 8/1/2013**

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** FMR will disseminate information about the restoration and enhancement activities associated with this grant on the organization’s website (www.fmr.org) and in it’s digital newsletter, which is called Mississippi Messages.

**Status as of 2/1/2012:**

**Status as of 8/1/2012:**

**Status as of 2/1/2013:**

**Status as of 8/1/2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel:	\$ 28,960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Conservation Director</u>: overall project management and landowner outreach and assistance: .05 FTE. Approximately \$8,300.</li> <li>• <u>Ecologists</u> (2): Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. Approximately \$17,650.</li> <li>• <u>Stewardship Coordinator</u>: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. Approximately \$1,670.</li> <li>• <u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>: Seek, register, &amp; communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. Approximately \$1,340.</li> </ul>
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 167,100	Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc.

		(Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 240 \$ 2,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags.</li> <li>Pay for a nursery to germinate and grow plants from locally collected (native ecotype) seed. Purchase native ecotype trees and shrubs.</li> </ul>
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 1,300	Travel to project sites and to partner meetings.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** NA

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

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:** .21 FTE (Total staff hours - 877.5, divided by 4176, because the staff hours associated with this grant will be used over a two year period).

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b>		\$	
Private landowners	\$100,000	\$	Staff time and vendor services
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant	\$10,000	\$	Staff time and vendor services
Local units of government	\$30,000	\$	Staff time and vendor services
National Park Service	\$30,000	\$	Staff time and vendor services
St. Paul Foundation	\$5,000	\$	Staff time
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$20,000	\$	Staff time, supplies and vendor services
Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization	\$5,000	\$	Staff time and materials/supplies
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** The FMR project team consists of the Conservation Director-Tom Lewanski, Ecologist and Project Manager-Karen Schik, Ecologist - Joe Walton, Volunteer Coordinator-Sue Rich and Stewardship Coordinator-Karen Solas. Salary and benefits of these staff will be supported by the Trust Fund appropriation.

Trust Fund will be used for restoration activities on land owned by these partners: The National Park Service, Macalester College (Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area), Minneapolis Park Board, St. Paul Parks, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Cities of Rosemount & Inver Grove Heights. Restoration will also take place on a couple of sites that are in private ownership. FMR will utilize ENRTF (as recommended by LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. These entities, along with Dakota County, the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization, Minneapolis neighborhood associations, watershed districts, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and community volunteers will contribute resources to restoration and enhancement projects from non-Trust Fund sources. No funds from this appropriation will go directly to any of the partners.

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

The Mississippi River is the defining natural feature of the central portion of the United States. It provides critical habitat both as an international migration corridor and as essential habitat for local resident wildlife and plant populations. FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for well over a decade. This approach has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, over time, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. As such the restoration and enhancement projects presented in this proposal are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Many times these projects involve restoration and protection components. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

**C. Spending History:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY 2010</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY 2011</b>
ENRTF	\$90,000 Subd.5(b)	\$53,000 Subd.4c (2.1).	\$92,000 Subd. 3(a)2.1	\$90,000 Subd. 4(f)2.3	
Private landowners	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership	\$10,000				
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation				\$34,000	
St. Paul Audubon Society	\$5,000				
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund-Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program					\$94,374
Outdoor Heritage Fund-LSOHC					\$25,000

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:** See attached.

**IX. MAP(S):** See attached.

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:** NA

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

**Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than 2/1/2012, 8/1/2012, and 2/1/2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.**

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2011 Restoration List**

**Project Title:** 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

**Project Manager Name:** Tom Lewanski

**M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$ 200,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y					
1	Gelhar-Emrick	518412.2853	4949886.287	Prairie	Mississippi River bluffland above Vermillion River Bottoms.	Prairie restoration - site prep, prescribed burn, exotic plant control, seed/plant natives.	40	
2	Gores Pool WMA (former Freitag property)	513718.8087	4954686.172	Upland forest and prairie.	Mississippi River floodplain and Corresponding uplands. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control. Mow prairie restoration area. Install native plants/seed.	80	
3	Grey Cloud Dunes SNA	503193.2258	4959757.6	Prairie	Rare natural community with rare species.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	30	
4	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	514145.039	4948705.079	Prairie	Rare natural community, including 14 rare species. Part of a local greenway.	Prescribed burns, remove trees & grind stumps, prepare soil, install seed, mow, exotic plant control.	140	
5	Hastings SNA	513251.4991	4952772.705	Floodplain forest & maple-basswood forest.	Diverse natural community with rare plant. Important bird habitat. Part of a local greenway.	Exotic plant control	40	
6	Heritage Village Park	498607.4661	4967409.164	Floodplain forest	Mississippi River floodplain. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	10	
7	Mississippi River Gorge	484629.9321	4972938.808	Floodplain forest, wetland, upland forest, prairie	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	15	
8	Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	497895.4505	4959176.326	Upland forest and prairie.	Diverse and rare natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, prescribed burns, prep and seed prairie restoration.	60	
9	Ravenna block greenway	518242.0211	4943118.285	Oak forest and grassland	Contiguous forest within greenway, opportunity for prairie re-creation.	Invasive species management, prairie & savanna restoration- site prep and seeding.	60	
10	Rosemount Wildlife preserve	491944.3959	4957746.977	Prairie and woodland	Diverse natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, Rx burning.	25	
11	Wilmar	501095.223	4945510.495	Prairie	Vermillion River riparian habitat.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	40	

540

**NOTES:**

**Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

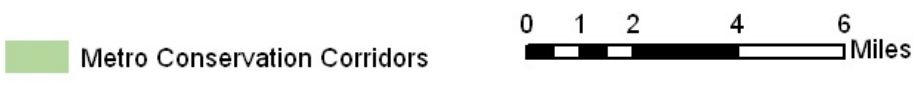
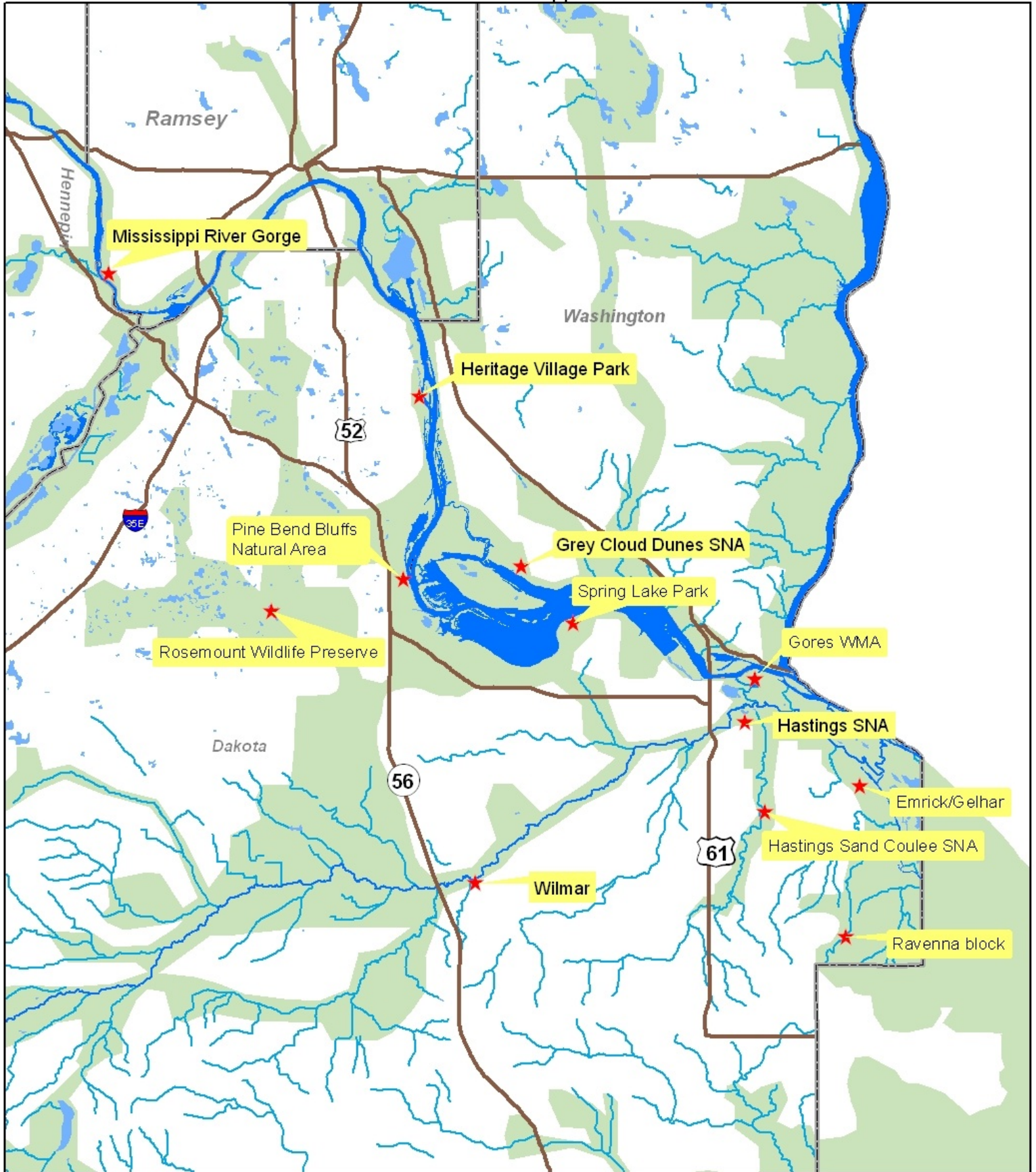
<b>Project Title:</b> <i>2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat</i>			
<b>Legal Citation:</b>			
<b>Project Manager:</b> <i>Tom Lewanski</i>			
<b>M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$ 200,000			
<b>Project Length and Completion Date:</b> <i>June 30, 2013</i>			
<b>Date of Update:</b>			

<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Activity 1 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>			
	Restore and/or enhance 163 acres of prairie and woodland/forest.		
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>	28,960	0	\$28,960
Conservation Director: overall project management and landowner outreach and assistance: .05 FTE. (approximately 84% salary & 16% benefits)	8,300	0	\$8,300
Ecologists (2): Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. (approximately 83% salary & 17% benefits)	17,650	0	\$17,650
Stewardship Coordinator: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. (approximately 78% salary & 22% benefits)	1,670	0	\$1,670
Volunteer Coordinator: Seek, register, & communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. (approximately 80% salary & 20% benefits)	1,340	0	\$1,340
<b>Professional/Technical Contracts</b>		0	
Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)	167,100		\$167,100
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>		0	
<i>Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags.</i>	240		\$240
Plant material (native ecotype)	2,400	0	\$2,400
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b>		0	
<i>mileage</i>	1,300		\$1,300
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>



2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL  
PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6  
Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Friends of the Mississippi River.



Metro Conservation Corridors