



# 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:** 8/11/2011

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

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

**Project Title: MeCC VI - TPL's Critical Land Protection Program (3.1)**

**Project Manager:** Becca Nash

**Affiliation:** The Trust for Public Land

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**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Anoka, Chisago, Scott

**Ecological Section Impacted:** Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	500,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	0
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	500,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.1

**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: 3.1 - MeCC 6 - TPL's Critical Land Protection Program**

### **II. PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL)'s proposed project includes strategic fee title acquisition of an estimated 30 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.3 miles of shoreline in scientifically evaluated wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. All lands acquired will be transferred to appropriate state or local agency for permanent stewardship. \$500,000 ENRTF dollars will be leveraged with an additional \$250,000 in non-state funds. \$490,000 of the ENRTF appropriation will be used as capital for the land acquired and \$10,000 will be used to cover DNR acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed.

An estimated 255,000 acres of high quality natural lands (MNDNR 2003) remain in the seven county metro area and only 32% is currently protected by DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or as regional parks or nature preserves.

The goal of this effort is to protect portions of the remaining high quality land and water habitat that can provide as many benefits as possible. Benefits include: resilience of animal and plant populations (including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need") to climate change by focusing work within migration/connectivity corridors; protection of our lakes, rivers, streams and the quality of our ground water; and access for "close to home" outdoor recreation, study, and enjoyment where nearly 60% of the state's population lives.

The economic recession has provided some once-in-a-lifetime unique opportunities: landowners previously not interested in selling are now motivated and land prices have fallen so that properties are now available at a fraction of the price in other times. This effort aims to focus on those unique opportunities as well as to continue building on past work accomplished through previous years ENRTF funding.

### **III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

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

**Project Status as of August 1, 2012:**

**Project Status as of February 1, 2013:**

**Project Status as of August 1, 2013:**

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

**ACTIVITY 1:** Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area

**Description:** Acquire land in fee title and convey it into public ownership for stewardship and protection. Attached as Exhibit A is a list of the lands that may be acquired in part with funding from this request. TPL will prioritize potential land protection projects within the Metro Conservation Corridors based on the priorities established by the public agencies with which we work and on landowner willingness to sell. Priority will also be given to high quality natural resources and on lands that provide natural buffers to water resources. We will also consider resource mapping, stakeholder suggestions, and joint recommendations made by the coalition of groups involved in this overall effort. TPL will work with the long-term steward to ensure a restoration and management plan consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the site is developed and that funding is identified for creation of a management plan.

Unless necessary to protect priority lands and subject to work plan amendment at that time, TPL will not acquire residential structures.

TPL will:

1. Seek County board approval for each acquisition going to DNR
2. Ensure a restoration and management plan is prepared for each acquisition
3. Identify funding source to implement such plans
4. Provide or have the final title holder provide an analysis of increased operations and maintenance cost likely to be incurred and how these costs will be covered
5. Obtain Commissioner approval for lands to be acquired by the DNR

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$500,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$500,000**

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. <i>Approximately 30 acres of habitat and 0.3 miles of shoreline protected</i>	June 30, 2013	\$500,000

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

**Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:**

**Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:**

**Final Report Summary: August 1, 2013:**

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** As conservation transactions are completed, The Trust for Public Land will disseminate information on the TPL website, [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org), broadcast emails to Embrace Open Space (EOS) and TPL list serve members, distribute press releases, and include information in TPL's newsletters and publications as appropriate. TPL will also work with the long-term steward to ensure information is distributed to its listserves and on its website as well.

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

**Dissemination Status as of August 1, 2012:**

**Dissemination Status as of February 1, 2013:**

**Final Dissemination Report Summary: August 1, 2013:**

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:** ENRTF funds will be spent between July 2011 and June 2013

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$490,000.00	Please see attached Acquisition List for specific entities that will hold title to the land acquired

DNR acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as needed	\$10,000.00	
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** N/A

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** Capital expenditures will only be for fee title to land acquired as specified in this work program

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

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b>			
Various local, regional, federal or private funds (as funds are raised, further details will be provided)	\$250,000	\$0	Matching land acquisition funds
<b>State</b>			
Various bonding, and/or Clean Water, Land, and Legacy funds (as funds are raised, further details will be provided)	\$250,000	\$0	Matching land acquisition funds
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** TPL works closely with private landowners and with the public agency or non-profit partner to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land interest that TPL purchases using ENRTF funds. Long-term stewards and other project partners may include local governments, regional agencies, state agencies, water-related agencies, federal agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. We also work closely with citizen groups and coordinate our work with other Metro Conservation Corridor partners, which each receives its own appropriation under the program. When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** This proposal is a component of a larger and longer-term effort of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, begun in 2003, to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the broader Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, a 16-county area that is expanding with the result of land and water habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss and permanent conversion to urban uses. MeCC will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

**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 (TPL)	620,000 Subd 5(b)	420,000 Subd 4(c)	475,000 Subd 3(a)	380,000 Subd 4(f)	890,000 Subd 4(g)
ENRTF (Partners)	300,000	46,328	53,672	200,000	358,493
Other state (bonding, RIM), local, private, or federal	1,361,558	1,491,877	1,725,564.97	911,579	3,325,321
OHF (TPL)				294,500	1,500,000
OHF (Partners)					1,605,500

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:** See Acquisition List attachment

**IX. MAP(S):** See Map Attachment

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:** N/A

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

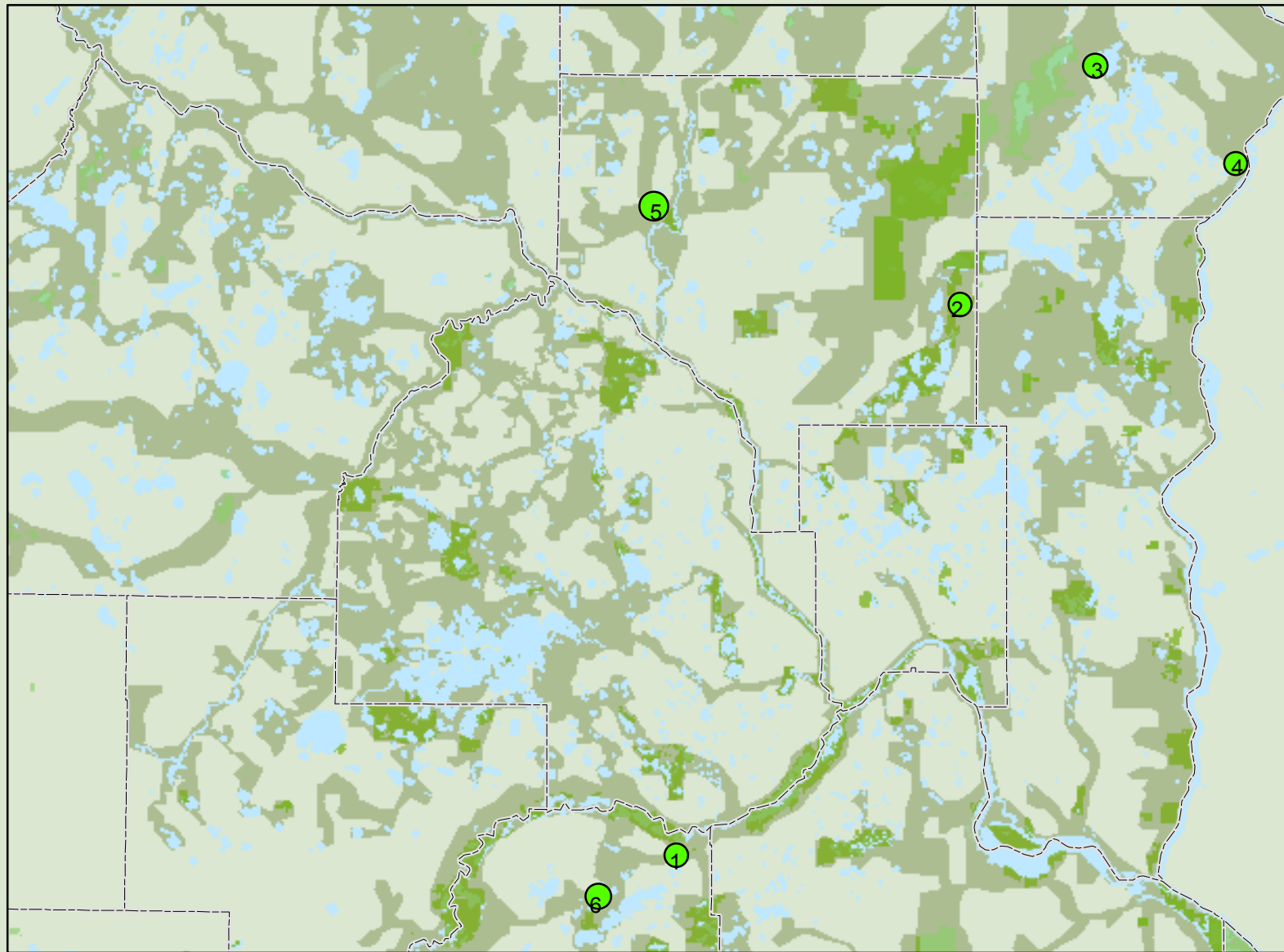
Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012 and February 1, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: <i>TPL's Critical Land Protection Program</i>					
Legal Citation:					
Project Manager: Becca Nash					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years; 2011-2013					
Date of Update: 5/13/11					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Acquisition</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition	490,000	0	490,000	490,000	490,000
Other DNR acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>		<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

Project Title: TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program  
 Project Manager Name: Becca Nash  
 M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000

Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR Latitude or UTM-X Longitude or UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres (allocated)	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
	Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
Savage Fen SNA additions	44 46'2 N	93 22'6. W	prairie, forest, wetland, savanna	A significant amount of land has become available for acquisition and at possibly half of its pre-economic downturn value. Acquired land would provide protection to existing Scientific and Natural Area lands as well as to currently unprotected sugar maple-basswood forests, seepage meadow, fen, and alkaline seeps and spring—all within the Minnesota River Valley. Acquisition will also entail provision of a multi-use trail through an existing disturbed corridor. Signage will be placed along corridor to educate the public about the unique landforms found here and about the cultural history of the area. Protection is supported through local and regional plans.	Fee title acquisition	7.5		DNR- SNA	Negotiations with landowner underway
Rice Creek Headwaters	43 2' 32" N	93 2" 59" W	forest, wetland	TPL is working with Anoka County and several landowners to conserve a key connection at the headwaters of the Rice Creek conservation corridor, which extends for over 20 miles from Lamprey Pass WMA to the Mississippi River. The 320-acre area has a rich mixture of habitat types including cattail marsh, emergent marsh, shrub swamp, mixed hardwood swamp, basswood/maple islands, rich fen and poor fen. Much of the area is identified in the state's County Biological Survey and Metro Regionally Significant Ecological Areas as containing some of the last remaining high-quality natural communities in the metro area. Local support has already been obtained for conservation of this high quality habitat less than 20 miles from downtown St. Paul.	Fee title acquisition	50		Anoka County	Negotiations with landowners underway
Lindstrom Natural Area	45 24'10. N	92 49'56.W	forest, wetland	In southern Chisago County, TPL is working with the City of Lindstrom and multiple landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as "regionally significant ecological areas." This is the second and last phase of an effort that has been made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5,497 feet of lakeshore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation such as red shouldered hawk, bald eagle, and Blanding's turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional, and state plans.	Fee title acquisition	10	5	City of Lindstrom	Negotiations with landowners underway
Rum River-Boy Scouts	45 17'24. N	93 22'30.W	forest, wetland	In west-central Anoka County, TPL is working with the landowners and the City of Ramsey to protect a 160+ acre patch of regionally significant ecological lands including river shoreline, wetlands, forests and prairie habitat. Acquisition would provide protection of these resources as well as access to the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which is also a state designated canoe route.	Fee title acquisition	16	8	City of Ramsey	Potential Project
St. Croix/Franconia-Scandia SNA	45 20'14. N	92 42'36.W	forest	TPL is building on its past successful acquisitions with the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program to protect more critical habitat in this important ecological corridor as defined by DNR's Division of Ecological Services. Acquisitions will be targeted toward lands of high biodiversity significance and to sensitive ravines that impact the water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Protection here is supported by local, state, and federal plans.	Fee title acquisition	15	7.5	DNR- SNA	Potential Project
Pike Lake II	44 45'9. N	93 25'51.W	forest, wetland	Building on its past successful acquisition of 30 acres for a natural area, TPL is again working with the City of Prior Lake to acquire land to extend this habitat corridor along the shoreline of pristine Pike Lake. Acquisition of this land is critical for protecting wildlife (including nesting bald eagles), for protecting water quality, and for providing the public an opportunity to enjoy nature nearby in this rapidly growing area of the metro.	Fee title acquisition	12.5	6.25	City of Prior Lake	Potential Project

NOTES:



## TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VI 2011 Focus Areas

### Legend

- County Boundary
- Metro\_Parks
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR\_NFWS
- Metro Conservation Corridors

- (1) Savage Fen SNA Additions
- (2) Rice Creek Headwaters
- (3) Lindstrom Natural Area
- (4) Rum River- Boy Scouts
- (5) Franconia Scandia SNA
- (6) Pike Lake II

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