



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

Date of Status Update:

Date of Next Status Update: 5/1/2012

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? _____

Project Title: HCP VII - Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Areas (2o)

Project Manager: Greg Hoch

Affiliation: Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management

Address: Biology Dept - Concordia College

City: Moorhead **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 56562

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Location:

Counties Impacted: Clay

Ecological Section Impacted: Red River Valley (251A)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation \$: 75,000

Amount Spent \$: 0

Balance \$: 75,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j2o

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: Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Production Areas

II. PROJECT SUMMARY: Across the eastern prairie pothole region, greater than 99% of small, seasonal wetlands have been drained. The elimination of these productive systems from the landscape has dramatically decreased waterfowl production. These wetlands also store floodwater in the spring and after severe storms. Draining these wetlands reduces the capacity of the landscape to hold or store water, increasing flooding downstream. By restoring these wetlands in Clay and Becker Counties, we are both creating wildlife habitat for waterfowl and many other species, as well as helping to store water in the upper parts of the water and reducing downstream flooding in the Red River Valley. This habitat work will help meet the goals of both the DNR and USFWS for waterfowl production in western Minnesota. It takes approximately \$1500/acre for wetland restoration, therefore we hope to restore 50 acres of wetlands, with individual wetlands ranging in size from 0.1 to 2 acres. We will not simply place an earthen plug in the ditch. We will remove the sediment that has eroded into the wetland basins and use the sediment to fill the length of the ditch that drains the wetland. The remaining soil will be spread evenly across adjacent uplands. The goal is to restore the original topography and water holding capacity of the site as closely as possible.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

November 2011
May 2012
November 2012
May 2013

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Wetland Restoration

Description: Contactors will be selected through the Federal governments IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity) process. The contractor will not itemize each step (remove silt, deposit and spread silt) but will provide billing per hour. In the past, cost has come to approximately \$1500/acre. These wetlands will range in size from less than a tenth of an acre to approximately two acres. All restoration activities will be conducted on permanently protected Federal lands open to hunting and outdoor recreation.

USFWS staff have developed management plans for these sites, for both the restoration and long-term maintenance. The restoration will not simply be installing ditch plugs. USFWS staff will use historic aerial photos and GIS to identify wetland basins. They will then conduct field inspections and flag the perimeters of each wetland restoration. Friends members are participating in each of these stages. Contractors will remove the silt from the wetlands, increasing the volume of water held, and spread the silt over the adjacent uplands and completely fill any ditches to restore as much of the original topography as possible. In previous work, we have found as much as 3-4 feet of accumulated silt in many wetland basins. The primary maintenance tool will be fire, and these sites will be regularly burned by USFWS crews. There are on-going evaluations of wetland restorations. These include monitoring the vegetation, invasives species, and use by waterfowl and other wildlife. These evaluations are part of the larger monitoring and evaluations programs across the Detroit Lakes District. Reports will be provided as needed or requested.

USFWS personnel will conduct the reseedling using local ecotype seed collected on nearby native prairies. They will reseed the wetland edges, adjacent uplands where the silt was placed, and any areas disturbed by the equipment.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 75,000

Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 75,000

Activity Completion Date: June 2013

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. remove silt from wetlands and fill ditches (contractors)		\$ 75,000

Activity Status as of (1 Nov 2011):

Activity Status as of (1 May 2012):

Activity Status as of (1 Nov 2012):

Activity Status as of (1 May 2013):

Final Report Summary: NA

V. DISSEMINATION: Periodic progress reports, project completion reports, and pertinent GIS data will be shared with other state and federal resource management agencies, state colleges and universities, and made available to the State Electronic Library and other information depositories as part of overall project implementation. Pertinent information will also be provided to the overall project website as it is developed. In addition, work program progress will be publicized through the USFWS' Accomplishment Reporting System and its Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

Description:

Status as of (1 Nov 2011):

Status as of (1 May 2012):

Status as of (1 Nov 2012):

Status as of (1 May 2013):

Final Report Summary: NA

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Service Contracts	\$ 75,000	We will hire local contractors to restore wetlands. After USFWS have identified and flagged the wetlands, contractors will remove the accumulated

		silt, fill in any ditches, and spread the silt on adjacent uplands to restore the original topography.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 75,000	

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: We estimate that this project will require approximately four people working full-time for a month. This should be equivalent to approximately 1/3 of an annual FTE.

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
USFWS – In Kind	\$	\$	Staff will identify wetlands, flag wetlands for contractors, and plant with local ecotype seed once the contractors are done at the site.
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The USFWS and the Friends group will continue to work with other USFWS offices in the region, the MN DNR, and NGOs such as the MN Prairie Chicken Society, MN Waterfowl Association (MWA), Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever to protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat across the prairie pothole region of northwestern Minnesota.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The impact of this project will be to create additional habitat for wetland dependent wildlife such as waterfowl, marshbirds, passerines, and furbearers. The long-term strategy for managing these land will be through the on-going fire and weed control control efforts currently conducted by FWS staff at the DLWMD office.

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
OHC – CPL grant (Friends)			27000		
OHC – CPL grant (MWA)			97500		
NAWCA (Friends)		40095	75000		
LCCMR		20000	50000	45000	

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attached table.

IX. MAP(S): Attached

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than 1 Nov 2011, 1 May 2012, and 1 Nov 2012. 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 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Production Areas

Project Manager Name: Greg Hoch

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$75,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y							
1	Whiskey Lake WPA	46 39	96 12	prairie pothole	restoration of the nations most endangered ecosystem	wetland restoration	approximately 30 acre per site		currently owned by USFWS	uplands are restored, this grant will fund wetlands
2	Lake Park WPA	46 52	96 10	prairie pothole	same	wetland restoration	same			same
3	Seter-Davis WPA	46 53	96 10	prairie pothole	same	wetland restoration	same			same
<p>NOTES: We will not be able to restore every wetland on each site. We listed multiple sites to provide flexibility. If it has been raining and is too muddy to work at one site, we will work at another.</p>										

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

Project Title: Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Areas					
Legal Citation: <i>to be appended</i>					
Project Manager: <i>Greg Hoch</i>					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 75,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>July 2013</i>					
Date of Update: <i>NA</i>					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Wetland Restorations</i>				
Service contracts We will use the Federal bid process (IDIQ Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity). Contractors will remove sediment from the wetlands, fill adjoining ditches, and spread remaining sediment on the uplands.	75,000		75,000	75,000	75,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

