



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: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? _____

Project Title: HCP VII - WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries (4a)

Project Manager: Joe Pavelko

Affiliation: Pheasants Forever Inc

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City: Victoria **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55386

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Web Address: <http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Lac qui Parle, LeSeur, Rice

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	434,000
	Amount Spent \$:	0
	Balance \$:	434,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j4a

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: HCP VII – 4a – WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries

II. PROJECT SUMMARY: Despite all of the investments in conservation, many of the agricultural counties are continuing to experience a net loss of habitat. Acknowledging the fact that current conservation funding levels won't fully address our habitat conservation needs, it is imperative that our limited funding resources be invested as strategic as possible to maximize a wide array of benefits for not only wildlife, but for other benefits such as water quality, native species protection, and outdoor recreational opportunities. State Wildlife Management Areas and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas not only provide quality wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and provide a myriad of other environmental benefits, but they provide quality public recreation opportunities so important to the citizens of our state.

One way to prioritize and to maximize benefits is to acquire parcels where the footprint of the strategic acquisition is larger than the acquisition boundary itself. For example, the acquisition of a 40 acre WMA adjacent to the original WMA shares an 80 acre drained wetland. Acquiring the property would not only provide 40 acres of additional habitat, but would also enable an 80 acre wetland restoration. The footprint of the 40 acre acquisition is 80 acres. Specific to this project, the acquisition of the 160 acre Lake Sanborn WMA will not only result in 160 acres of a quality restored wetland/prairie complex, it will allow DNR legal access to the outlet of Lake Sanborn where a water control structure can be installed, enhancing the 350 acre designated wildlife lake for a total footprint of 510 acres.

A total of 141 acres of priority wildlife habitat (86 acres with ENRTF funds and 55 acres with non-state matching funds) will be acquired utilizing this method. Once acquired, these lands will be restored to the highest quality and comprehensive as practicable utilizing ENRTF grant funds and matching funds.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (November 30, 2011):

Project Status as of (May 31, 2012):

Project Status as of (November 30, 2012):

Project Status as of (May 31, 2013):

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Fee-Title Acquisition

Description: Within the designated HCP work areas, Pheasants Forever will acquire 86 acres in fee title and restore using ENRTF funds (an additional 55 acres will be acquired and restored with \$275,000 in non-state funds) with the footprint of each parcel larger than the legal property boundaries of the acquisitions. Acquired tracts will be transferred to the DNR as part of the Wildlife Management Area system or to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Waterfowl Production Areas.

In addition to the footprint requirement, all acquisitions will provide public access and will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Protect native remnant prairie.
- Protect wetland/prairie complexes.
- Adjacent to permanently protected lands and will provide connectivity.
- Will enable the restoration of croplands to wetland/prairie complexes.
- Will enable the restoration of adjacent permanently protected lands.

PF will work with DNR and/or USFWS land managers to develop and implement restoration and management plans that will meet all ENRTF requirements. Restoration of the acquired tracts will be funded with ENRTF grant dollars in this proposal. County board approval will be obtained for all acquisitions before closing and will have DNR Commissioner approval in writing. PF will record a notice of funding restriction on the acquired parcel and will complete land acquisition, transaction costs, and future costs analysis reports for all acquisitions.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 434,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 434,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquire approximately 86 acres fee-title	June 30, 2013	\$ 394,000
2. Restore approximately 86 acres (acquired acres)	June 30, 2013	\$ 40,000

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2011):

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2012):

Activity Status as of (November 30, 2012):

Activity Status as of (May 31, 2013):

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: All update and final reports will be available at www.mnhabitatcorridors.org . In addition, PF will work with LCCMR staff to promote accomplishments and projects completed through this partnership in the media. We will forward any media coverage to LCCMR staff for distribution.

Status as of (November 30, 2011):

Status as of (May 31, 2012):

Status as of (November 30, 2012):

Status as of (May 31, 2013):

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 25,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (.18 FTE

		Total (1 yr) - 72% salary, 28% benefits)
		Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator (\$10,000) .05 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)
		Regional Biologists: (\$10,000) .08 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)
		Grants and Contracts Specialist (\$5,000) .05 FTE – (contract review e.g. purchase agreements, contract processing, PF to DNR transfer work)
Service Contracts	\$ 40,000	Restoration work for all acquired lands which may include prairie seeding, wetland restoration, tree removal, exotic species control, etc.
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 347,000	Acquisition of 86 acres
Professional Services for Acquisition:	\$ 20,000	Appraisals, lands surveys, title work, etc.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 2,000	Mileage
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 434,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

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

Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator: (\$10,000) .05 FTE

Regional Biologists: (\$10,000) .08 FTE

Grants and Contracts Specialist (\$5,000) .05 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Private, Federal	\$ 275,000	\$ 0	Fee title acquisition, restoration
State			
	\$ 0	\$ 0	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 275,000	\$ 0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: PF will work with other Habitat Conservation Partners to the extent practical. Pheasants Forever will continue to work closely with the MN DNR and the USFWS to ensure all land acquisition obligations are met. All aspects of the acquisition process will be managed and completed by Pheasants Forever. Additional funding partners include private land owners, local PF chapters, conservation groups, and various units of state and local government.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is part of Pheasants Forever's sustained effort of strategically acquiring WMAs and WPAs that provide high quality wildlife and habitat with multiple benefits that are open to the public for wildlife dependant recreation. All lands acquired will be donated to the State of Minnesota for enrollment into the WMA system or will be donated to the USFWS for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Federal Waterfowl Production Areas. For each parcel, an IDP will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the

appropriate land management agency and all ecological restoration will be completed through this grant.

These strategic acquisitions also move to address several goals outlined in existing habitat/resource plans including: Aquatic Management Area Plan, Wildlife Management Area Plan, Statewide Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota Pheasant Plan, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, and several others.

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	\$404,300 Subd. 5(a)	\$450,000 Subd. 4(b)	\$350,000 Subd. 3(c)	\$350,000 Subd. 4(e)	\$0
Other Funds (non state)	\$485,758	\$361,150	\$428,446	\$350,000	\$0

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See Acquisition/Restoration 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 November 30th 2011, May 31st 2012, and November 30th, 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: HCP VII – 4a – WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries

Project Manager Name: Joe Pavelko

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 434,000

#	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	Erin Prairie WPA Addition	463567	4919334	Prairie/Wetland	Approximately 80 acres directly adjacent to an existing WPA/WMA complex in Rice County. Acquisition will allow the restoration of shared wetland, will greatly improve water quality of large wetland within the habitat complex, and will provide additional upland nesting habitat.	Fee title acquisition and restoration	80		USFWS	Being appraised
2	Lake Sanborn WMA	455411	4924534	Prairie/Wetland	Approximately 160 acres on the west end of Lake Sanborn, a DNR designated wildlife lake. Purchasing the property will allow for wetland and upland restoration and will give DNR legal access to the outlet of the lake to install a water control structure so it can be managed. Engineering work is underway.	Fee title acquisition and restoration	160		DNR	Appraisal completed, in negotiations
3	Minnkota WMA Addition	226711	4946761	Prairie/Wetland	The property is adjacent to land owned by the State within the existing Minn-Kota WMA and it includes the outlet of the main wetland on the WMA in Lincoln County, MN. Acquisition of tract 5 will allow for water level management on this wetland basin. There are several wetland restorations on tract 5 and the extensive CRP grasslands provide excellent pheasant and waterfowl nesting habitat. If this land is not purchased it will be plowed and farmed when the CRP contract expires. In addition, this 225 acre parcel will provide tremendous public hunting opportunities for pheasants and deer.	Fee title acquisition and restoration	225		DNR	Interested seller, waiting for funding to order appraisal
<p>NOTES: This is Pheasants Forever's potential project list. Projects may be removed from the list and new projects may be added depending on landowner interest, ecological value of new parcels, etc. All acquired tracts will be fully restored. Work program approval will be sought to add or remove projects from this list.</p>										

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

Project Title: HCP VII – 4a – WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries					
Legal Citation:					
Project Manager: Joe Pavelko					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 434,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years, June 30, 2013					
Date of Update: July 7, 2011					

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Fee Title Acquisition				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) (72% salary, 28% benefits)	25,000		25,000	25,000	25,000
Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator: (\$10,000) .05 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)			0	0	0
Regional Biologists: (\$10,000) .08 FTE – (Program implementation, landowner meetings, realty work, restoration planning, project management, RFPs, etc.)			0	0	0
Grants and Contracts Specialist (\$5,000) .05 FTE - (Contract review e.g. purchase agreements, contract processing, PF to DNR transfer work)			0	0	0
Service contracts Restoration work on acquired parcels. Work will include prairie seed installation, field prepping, mowing, burning, earthwork, tile breaks, water control structure installation etc. This work will be hired through private contractors.	40,000		40,000	40,000	40,000
Fee Title Acquisition (Acquisition of 86 acres)	347,000		347,000	347,000	347,000
Professional Services for Acquisition (Appraisals, lands surveys, title work, etc.)	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota Mileage	2,000		2,000	2,000	2,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$434,000	\$0	434,000	434,000	434,000



HCP7-4a WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries Project Map

Habitat Conservation Partnership - Phase 7

