

M.L. 2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2017

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII – 3.3: Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

PROJECT MANAGER: Deborah Loon

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)

MAILING ADDRESS: 3815 East American Boulevard

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Bloomington, MN 55425

PHONE: (612) 801-1935

EMAIL: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.mnvalleytrust.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML2013, Ch. 52, Sec. 2, Subd.04d3.3 & ML2016, Ch. 186, Sec. 2, Sub. 18

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$246,800

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$153,200

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

The Minnesota Valley Trust's goal with this \$400,000 ENRTF grant was to acquire 100 priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Minnesota Valley Trust exceeded the acreage goal by acquiring in fee title 121.36 acres, while spending only \$246,800 of the grant.

Specifically, the ENRTF grant acquired 23.6 acres for the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

Another 4.5 acre parcel was acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust with leveraged, non-state funds for the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge. While we had other non-state funds available to spend as leverage, we did not have the opportunity to close on other acquisitions during the grant timeframe.

Acquisition of the Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. The parcel acquired contains floodplain forest habitat and frontage on the Minnesota River.

Acquisition of the Louisville Swamp Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. This protects floodplain forest habitat and gains full management of a large wetland bordered by USFWS and the seller's property.

Many species of wildlife will benefit by Refuge management of these parcels, including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer. Both properties will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

In addition, public ownership of these properties will ensure long-term access for the State Trail, which ran through the Louisville Swamp Unit under a lease agreement between the DNR and the former landowner and (2) needs to cross the Bloomington Ferry Unit property. We have finalized a new no-cost lease agreement with the DNR for operation of the State Trail on the Louisville Swamp Unit property. The USFWS intends to allow the DNR to complete and manage the State Trail on the Bloomington Ferry Unit property.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The properties acquired are posted open to the public for Refuge-approved uses. The Minnesota Valley Trust's website (mnvalleytrust.org) has been updated to announce these acquisitions. A press release has been sent to the local newspapers (Jordan Independent and Bloomington Sun Current).



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report: 9/5/2017 Final Report

Date of Next Status Update Report: NA

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/25/2013

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2017

Is this an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Affiliation: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Mailing Address: 3815 East American Boulevard

City/State/Zip Code: Bloomington, MN 55425

Telephone Number: (612) 801-1935

Email Address: DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org

Web Address: www.mnvalleytrust.org

Location: Twin Cities Metropolitan Urbanizing Area, specifically Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000

Amount Spent: \$246,800

Balance: \$153,200

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd.04d3.3

M.L. 2016, Chapter 186, Section 2, Subdivision 18

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 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 plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. 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 plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. 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 plan. 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, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Carryforward: (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects are extended to June 30, 2017: (2) Laws 2013, chapter 52, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (d), Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VII, \$400,000 for the agreement with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. only;

I. PROJECT TITLE: Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: The Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition at least 100 acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), as delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). MVT will protect through fee title acquisition at least an additional 50 acres in the Refuge expansion areas with other, non-state funds, for a total addition of 150 acres to the Refuge.

The Refuge expansion units have been prioritized by the USFWS through a public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands are primarily along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. Potential parcels to acquire for Refuge expansion are located in the following Refuge unit boundaries -- Blakely (Sibley County), Bloomington Ferry Unit (Hennepin County), Jessenland Unit (Sibley County), Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County), and St. Lawrence (Scott County).

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues. We are in negotiation with several landowners, including properties that will be additions to the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. Both parcels need to be added to the parcel list (see amendment request that follows).

Amendment Request as of August 5, 2015: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to this Work Program and the related Acquisition-Restoration Parcel List to allow for use of the grant funds to acquire lands for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit. These properties were added to our ML2011 MeCC Phase VI Work Plan, but the acquisitions could not be completed by the deadline of that appropriation. We, therefore, seek to add them to this Work Plan.

The parcels are within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's authorized boundaries, as delineated in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Both targeted parcels are in-holdings that the Refuge has desired to get under its management.

Bloomington Ferry Unit – Acquisition of this parcel is important to completion and management of the Refuge's Bloomington Ferry Unit. It contains floodplain forest habitat and frontage on the Minnesota River.

Louisville Swamp Unit parcel -- Acquisition of this parcel is important to completion and management of the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit, protecting additional floodplain forest habitat and gaining full management of a large wetland bordered by FWS and the seller's property.

Many species of wildlife will benefit by Refuge management of these parcels, including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer.

Public ownership of these properties will ensure long-term access for the State Trail. The State Trail (1) currently runs through the Louisville Swamp Unit under a lease agreement between the DNR and the landowner and (2) needs to cross the Bloomington Ferry Unit property. The USFWS will allow the DNR to complete and manage the State Trail on its property.

Both properties will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016: The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. In addition, the fee owner of the Louisville Swamp Unit recently died, so sale of the property could be delayed. We anticipate both closings will be able to happen before the June 30, 2016 deadline, but realize legal matters may delay the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition.

In addition, while the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

Amendment Request as of February 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to extend this appropriation and Work Program to June 30, 2017. We request this amendment (1) because of the legal complications with the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition due to the recent death of the fee title holder.

Amendment Approved: 5/25/16

Project Status as of August 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust completed the fee title acquisition of the two parcels that were in process in our last report (February 1, 2016) -- 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. We have acquired 121.36 acres, exceeding the grant acres by 21.36, but not yet achieving the leverage acres of 50. We have spent \$246,800 of the \$400,000 grant, leaving a balance of \$153,200 available to spend on additional projects. Landowner outreach continues and additional parcels are under review.

Project Status as of February 1, 2017: The Minnesota Valley Trust is in negotiations with a landowner for an 11.78 acre addition to the Rapids Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition will complete the grant. An amendment is needed to add this parcel to the parcel list.

Amendment Request as of March 9, 2017: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to this Work Program and the related Acquisition-Restoration Parcel List to allow for use of the grant funds to acquire a 10 acre parcel for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the Rapids Lake Unit. An adjacent 1.78 acre parcel with a residential home will be acquired with other private, non-state funds.

This parcel is within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's authorized boundaries for the Rapids Lake Unit, as delineated in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. It is important to completion and management of the Rapids Lake Unit. The habitat is a mix of northern hardwood forest and grassland savanna. The desired future condition following restoration is a mosaic of native prairie / oak savanna and northern mixed hardwood forest. This will be accomplished through removal of red cedar and undesirable trees and shrubs (e.g., buckthorn), eradication of other invasive species that may be present (e.g., leafy spurge) and planting of native grasses and forbs in highly degraded areas.

Many wildlife species will benefit by Refuge management of the savanna/woodland habitat of these parcels including native snakes and prairie skinks, pollinators such as bees and butterflies (monarch and others) and many species of grassland and woodland birds.

The addition of this property will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

The MVT is also working with another landowner to acquire an adjacent 20.56 acre parcel for the Refuge. This parcel will be acquired using a combination of Outdoor Heritage Fund grant through the LSOHC and other private, non-state funds.

Acquisition of this property will complete this grant. Once complete, we will have acquired approximately 130 acres with the grant, exceeding our grant acres by about 30. Final acreage will be determined once the appraisal of the property is finalized and we can calculate the amount of the property that will be acquired by the grant.

While we are exceeding the grant acres, we are not able to achieve our match acres target for this grant.

Following acquisition, the property will be deeded by MVT to its subsidiary, Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc. (MVL). MVL will pay the property taxes on the property until it is transferred to the USFWS. The USFWS will make “revenue-sharing payments” to the county.

Final Report Summary: The Minnesota Valley Trust’s goal with this \$400,000 ENRTF grant was to acquire 100 priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Minnesota Valley Trust exceeded the acreage goal by acquiring in fee title 121.36 acres, while spending only \$246,800 of the grant.

Specifically, the ENRTF grant acquired 23.6 acres for the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Another 4.5 acre parcel was acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust with leveraged, non-state funds for the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge. While we had other non-state funds available to spend as leverage, we did not have the opportunity to close on other acquisitions during the grant timeframe.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: The Minnesota Valley Trust will complete fee title acquisition of at least 100 acres to expand one or more of the following units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge –

- Blakely Unit (Scott County)
- Bloomington Ferry Unit (Hennepin County)
- Jessenland Unit (Sibley County)
- Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County)
- St. Lawrence Unit (Scott County)

If a strategic opportunity to acquire land for one of the following Refuge units, the acquisition list will be updated to include that unit:

- Rapids Lake Unit (Carver County)
- San Francisco Unit (Carver County)
- A prospective new unit between Henderson and LeSueur as delineated by USFWS (LeSueur and Sibley Counties).

At least 50 additional acres will be acquired for the Refuge by the MN Valley Trust using other, non-state funds.

The Refuge expansion units have been prioritized and delineated by the USFWS in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) through a public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/MinnesotaValley/index.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/MinnesotaValley/finalccp.pdf>

The lands are along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. The CCP was updated in 2011. All potential parcels are within the delineated boundaries and identified as high priority lands for acquisition in the CCP. In addition, written approval will be sought from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prior to the acquisition per MN Statutes 116P.17; a copy of that approval will be provided to LCCMR.

The prospective lands offer significant habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands run along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain, cropland and bluffs. Some are adjacent to lands already in public ownership (USFWS, DNR) or previously acquired by the MN Valley Trust for the Refuge expansion.

These acquisitions will connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer.

This project will improve water quality by retiring cropland in the Minnesota River Valley and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. When donated to the USFWS, the public will be given access to the lands for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

The MN Valley Trust (MVT) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will develop a restoration and management plan(s) for the acquired parcel(s), then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie, as appropriate to the parcel. Cropland will be retired and drain tile broken. The MVT is the source of funds for this restoration and management work; the funds are secure.

The lands acquired will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An estimate of increased operations and maintenance costs will be provided to LCCMR. The increased costs for operations and maintenance will be the responsibility of the MVT and USFWS.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 400,000

Amount Spent: \$ 246,800

Balance: \$ 153,200

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Fee Title Acquisition of 100 Acres to Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	June 30, 2017	\$ 400,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues. We are in negotiation with several landowners, including property for an addition to the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. We have a signed purchase agreement for an addition to the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Refuge, on which we expect to close in 2015. Both parcels need to be added to the parcel list.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016: The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. In addition, the fee owner of the Louisville Swamp Unit recently died, so sale of the property could be delayed. We anticipate both closings will be able to happen before the June 30, 2016 deadline, but realize legal matters may delay the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition.

In addition, while the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

Amendment Request as of February 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to extend this appropriation and Work Program to June 30, 2017. We request this amendment (1) because of the legal complications with the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition due to the recent death of the fee title holder.

Amendment Approved: 5/25/16

Activity Status as of August 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust completed the fee title acquisition of the two parcels that were in process in our last report (February 1, 2016) -- 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. We have acquired 121.36 acres, exceeding the grant acres by 21.36, but not yet achieving the leverage acres of 50. We have spent \$246,800 of the \$400,000 grant, leaving a balance of \$153,200 available to spend on additional projects. Landowner outreach continues and additional parcels are under review.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2017: The Minnesota Valley Trust is in negotiations with a landowner for an 11.78 acre addition to the Rapids Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition will complete the grant. An amendment is needed to add this parcel to the parcel list.

Final Report: The Minnesota Valley Trust's goal with this \$400,000 ENRTF grant was to acquire 100 priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Minnesota Valley Trust exceeded the acreage goal by acquiring in fee title 121.36 acres, while spending only \$246,800 of the grant.

Specifically, the ENRTF grant acquired 23.6 acres for the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

Another 4.5 acre parcel was acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust with leveraged, non-state funds for the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge. While we had other non-state funds available to spend as leverage, we did not have the opportunity to close on other acquisitions during the grant timeframe.

Acquisition of the Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. The parcel acquired contains floodplain forest habitat and frontage on the Minnesota River.

Acquisition of the Louisville Swamp Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. This protects floodplain forest habitat and gains full management of a large wetland bordered by USFWS and the seller's property.

Many species of wildlife will benefit by Refuge management of these parcels, including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer. Both properties will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

In addition, public ownership of these properties will ensure long-term access for the State Trail, which ran through the Louisville Swamp Unit under a lease agreement between the DNR and the former landowner and (2) needs to cross the Bloomington Ferry Unit property. We have finalized a new no-cost lease agreement with DNR for operation of the State Trail on the Louisville Swamp Unit property. The USFWS intends to allow the DNR to complete and manage the State Trail on the Bloomington Ferry Unit property.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As projects are completed, the Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the accomplishments through press releases and the Trust website.

Status as of February 1, 2014: NA

Status as of August 1, 2014: NA

Status as of February 1, 2015: NA

Status as of August 1, 2015: NA

Status as of February 1, 2016: NA

Status as of August 1, 2016: NA

Status as of February 1, 2017: NA

Final Report Summary: The MN Valley Trust's website (mnvalleytrust.org) has been updated with an announcement of these acquisitions. A news release was sent to local newspapers, including the *Jordan Independent* and *Bloomington Sun Current*.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:			
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 400,000	\$ 246,800	
	\$ 400,000	\$ 246,800	

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: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: NA

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
MN Valley Trust funds	\$ 200,000	\$ 10,458	Fee Title Acquisition of 4.5 acres to expand the San Francisco Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 200,000	\$ 10,458	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), all Metro Conservation Corridors Partners, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, local communities

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is part of a long-term strategy to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by up to 10,000 acres and restore and enhance the Refuge's forest, wetland and prairie habitat for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation. The expansion and restoration strategy was developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge, completed September 2004 after a thorough public input process. The CCP was updated by the USFWS in 2011.

This project will further acquisition work completed previously by the Minnesota Valley Trust with support from the ENRTF. The benefits of the project include the following:

- Connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife. It will increase the breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical migrants and other species, including non-migratory resident species.
- Improve water quality of the Minnesota River by retiring cropland and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie.
- Expand the public's access to and enjoyment of public lands in and near the Twin Cities metropolitan area for wildlife-dependent recreational activities of birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF (MeCC)	\$ 230,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 600,000
Non-state, private funds	\$ 428,000	\$ 376,473	\$ 197,019	\$ 151,155	\$ 324,146	\$ 500,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Attached

IX. MAP(S): Attached

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

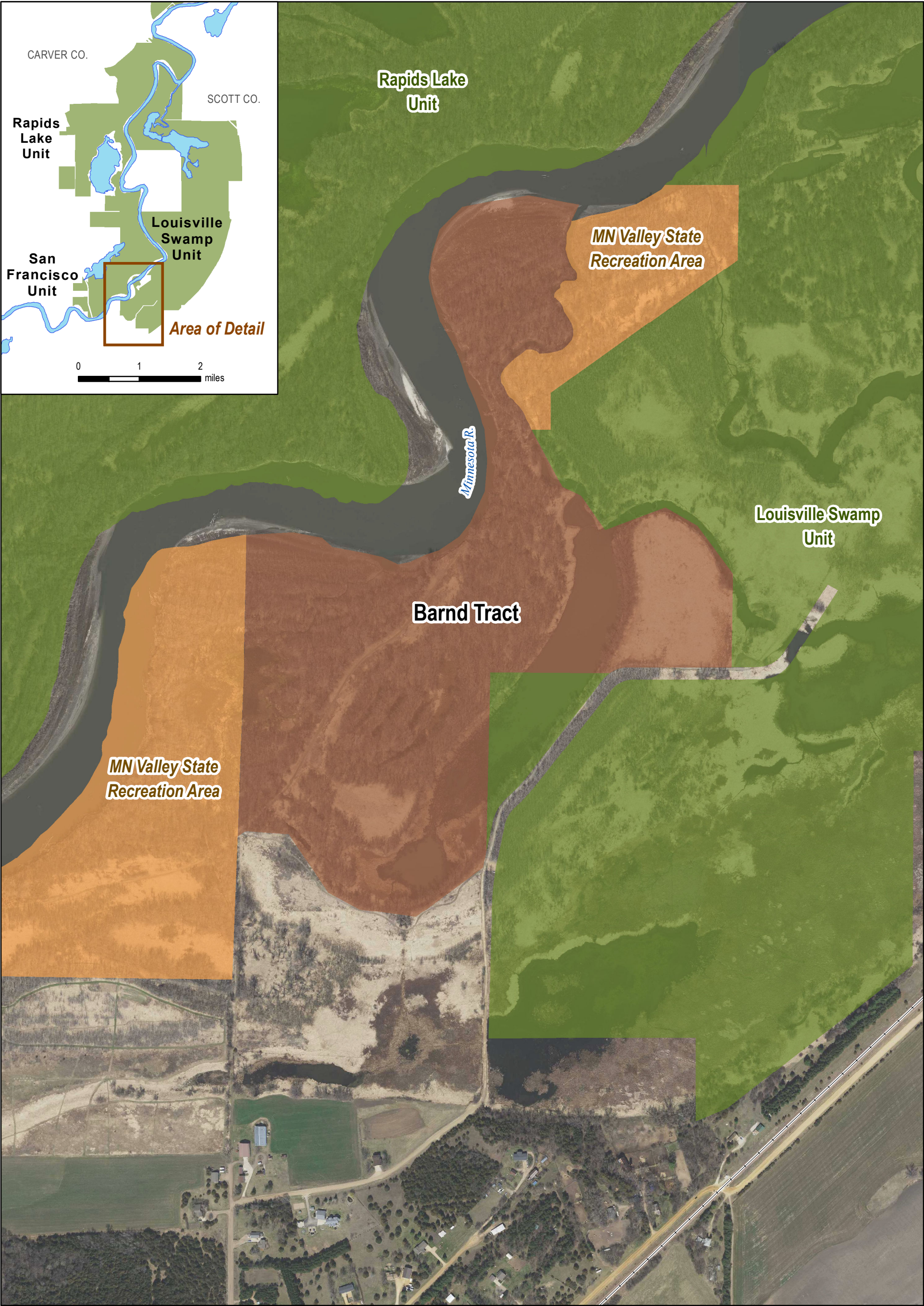
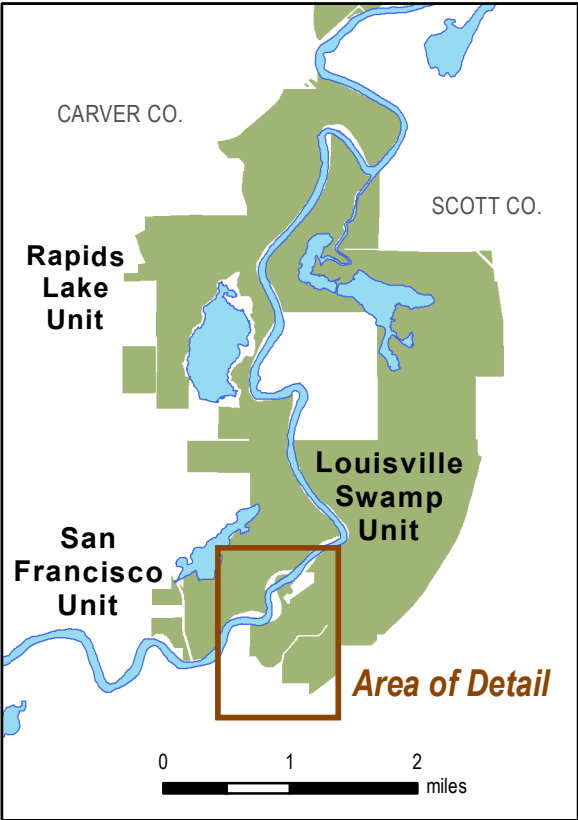
Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1 2014, August 1 2014, February 1 2015, August 1 2015, February 1 2016, August 1 2016 and February 1 2017. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2017 as requested by the LCCMR.

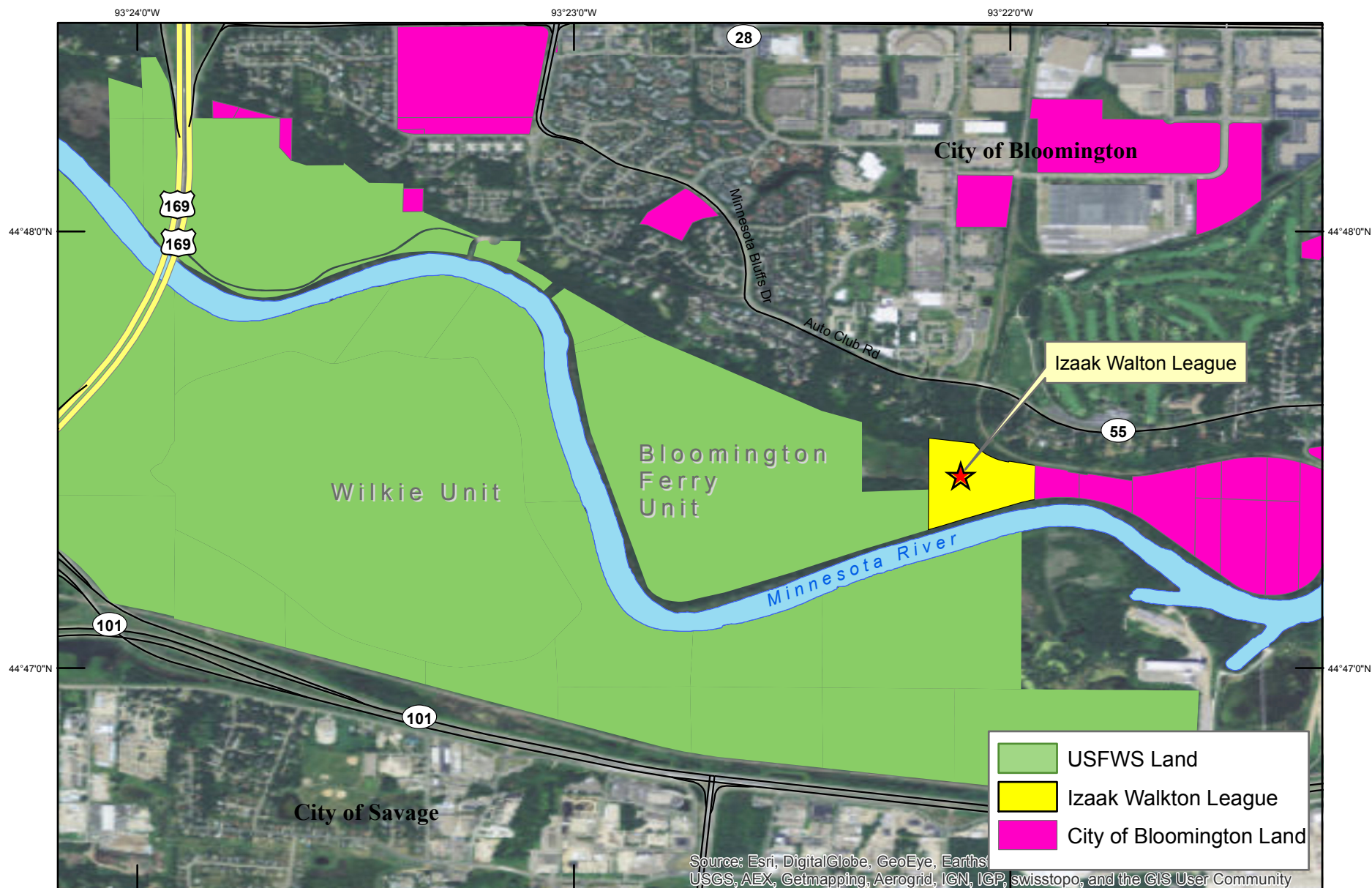
Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: <i>Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII</i>					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd.04d3.3					
Project Manager: <i>Deborah Loon</i>					
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>June 30, 2017</i>					
Date of Update: <i>August 15, 2017 - FINAL</i>					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fee Title Acquisition</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition <i>Fee title acquisition of 100 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Land acquired will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.</i>	400,000	246,800	153,200	400,000	153,200
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000	\$246,800	\$153,200	\$400,000	\$153,200

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Blakely Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°34'40"N	93°52'29"W	\$ 400,000	\$0	Scott	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
9	Bloomington Ferry Unit of MVNWR (Ikes)	44°47'24"N	93°22'09"W	\$ 70,800	\$0	Hennepin	Floodplain Forest	Fee title acquisition	23.6	0.21	private / trust	See note 2	Acquisition completed
10	Louisville Swamp Unit of MVNWR (Barnd)	44°41'38"N	93°37'48"W	\$ 176,000	\$0	Scott	Floodplain Forest	Fee title acquisition	97.65	0.70	private / trust	See note 2	Acquisition completed
	Rapids Lake Unit (Lenzen)	44°44'34"N	93°39'6"W	\$ 440,000	\$0	Carver	Upland/prairie, forest	Fee Title Acquisition	11.78	0.00	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
2	Jessenland Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°34'28"N	93°54'20"W	\$ 400,000	\$0	Sibley	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
3	St. Lawrence Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°39'01"N	93°42'13"W	\$ 400,000	\$0	Scott	Wetland and prairie	Fee Title Acquisition	100	0	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
NOTES: (1) Parcel search areas are within the Refuge expansion units, as delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through a planning process that combined data review, on the ground site review and public input. Most lands are within the Minnesota River floodplain, have river frontage or are contingent to parcels with river frontage, and contain floodplain forest, wetland and prairie, providing significant habitat for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation for the public. (2) The Initial fee title holder will be Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc. (subsidiary of Minnesota Valley Trust), while habitat restoration and enhancement is conducted. Eventual fee title holder will be Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the USFWS.													





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community