

2015 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2021

PROJECT TITLE: Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats

PROJECT MANAGER: Ashley Brenke

AFFILIATION: Martin Soil and Water Conservation District

MAILING ADDRESS: 923 North State Street, Suite 110

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Fairmont, MN 56031

PHONE: 507-235-6680

E-MAIL: ashley.martinswcd@gmail.com

WEBSITE: martinswcd.net

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b as extended by M.L. 2020, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Sec. 2

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$495,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$299,757

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$195,243

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project enhanced the number and variety of native plant species on sites across the state of Minnesota. By working with a variety of partners, we were able to reach citizens from the border of Iowa up to Lake Superior, and teach many people about the importance of native habitats.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Minnesota is blessed to have a variety of habitats all across the state. The Thirteen Counties project focused on improving those diverse habitats by restoring uncommon native plant species. This had a secondary benefit of also providing habitat for other at-risk species. Local sourced species were chosen for planting that matched the growing conditions on the restoration site. Species selection was made depending on local species availability and the characteristics of the sites.

Plant materials were collected locally from species that have little or no presence in restorations. Over 50,000 plants were propagated of 50 different species. Prior to establishing new native plant species on site, invasive species sometimes had to be removed. Restorations occurred on over 15 different sites across the state. Funds were directly used on sites in 4 different counties and technical assistance was provided to projects in 2 additional counties. While projects did not occur in 7 of the counties, project participants still heard updates about grant progress at regional meetings in southcentral Minnesota. The degree of invasive species removal varied from site to site. Some of the invasive species removed during this project were Common Tansy and Japanese Barberry. Resilient native species, such as Grass Leaved Goldenrod, were planted in place of the invasive species with the goal of being able to out-compete the invasive species long term. In Cottonwood County, for example, invasive buckthorn was removed and replaced with local dogwood shrubs.

Martin SWCD and project partners reached over 700 people (volunteers, students, etc.) through direct interaction at planting events and workshops. Thousands more were reached through social media, newsletters, radio, and local newspapers. Over 20 workshops and trainings were held as well. Some of the workshops were hands-on activities in the field, where others were more general topics in a classroom that focused on the difference between native and invasive species. Martin SWCD staff was able to share the knowledge they have gained about plant propagation from previous projects with other Southern Minnesota counties and with project partners at Crow Wing and Lake County SWCDs. The education transferred from experienced SWCD staff to new SWCD staff will be invaluable for years to come.

The most important achievement of this project is the number of people who learned more about habitats native to their region of the state. Individuals will take this knowledge and work on promoting and protecting native species in their own backyard, and pass it on for future generations to learn.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Activities under this project were disseminated using a variety of different methods. Restoration sites were shown on Facebook as well as in videos on YouTube. Project information was also shared with numerous school classes, local elected Boards, volunteer organizations (Rotary Club, etc.), conservation clubs and at County Fairs. This project work was also covered in local newsletters and websites of the partner Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Over the years of the project, there were also a number of media outlets covering project work.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2015 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Report: August 16, 2021

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2015

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2021

PROJECT TITLE: Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats

Project Manager: Ashley Brenke

Organization: Martin Soil and Water Conservation District

Mailing Address: 923 North State Street, Suite 110

City/State/Zip Code: Fairmont, MN 56031

Telephone Number: (507) 235-6680

Email Address: ashley.martinswcd@gmail.com

Web Address: martinswcd.net

Location: Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Faribault, Freeborn, Le Sueur, Jackson, Lake, Martin, Nicollet, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$495,000
	Amount Spent:	\$299,757
	Balance:	\$195,243

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b as extended by M.L. 2020, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Sec. 2

Appropriation Language:

\$495,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District for a cooperative thirteen county effort by Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Lake, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Waseca, and Watonwan counties to protect and expand native forest and prairie habitat for species in greatest conservation need in four regions of the state through collection and propagation of local ecotype native plants, habitat restoration efforts, and educational outreach. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2020, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

M.L. 2020 - Sec. 2. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2021]

I. PROJECT TITLE: Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: Providing habitat for “species in greatest conservation need” will be accomplished by protecting and expanding diverse native forest and prairie habitats in 13 counties touching 4 regions of the state. The project focus is restoring uncommon/rare at-risk native plant species to provide habitat for other at-risk species. Project partners will use local ecotype native plants that are aggressive enough to compete with and overtake invasive species, in order to reclaim areas where non-native species have started. Plant materials with origins near the restoration sites and seed from sites certified by the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association or local source Yellow Tag Seed will be used. The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association will be involved with certification of species on new project sites

Local source species are chosen for planting that match the growing conditions of the restoration sites. In each of the new partnering counties, species selection will be made depending on local ecotype species availability and the characteristics of restoration sites. Species that appear to be rare will be targeted in each county along with the necessary supporting species.

For example, in Martin County work will continue on Tuberous Indian Plantain, Eared False Foxglove and Sullivant’s Milkweed, which are all state listed species. Under permit, these species cannot be moved outside of Martin County. Other counties may be able to secure permits to work with listed species within their county. Other project focus species not often found in restorations include: Stiff Gentian, Bottle Gentian, Hoary Puccoon, Fringed Puccoon, Pasque Flower, Prairie Violet, Bird’s Foot Violet, Prairie Larkspur, Great Blue Lobelia, Spiked Lobelia, Wood Betony, Wood Lily, Pussy Toes, Ground Plum, Ground Cherry, Blue Eyed Grass, Yellow Star Grass, Prairie Turnip, Silky Aster, Prairie Phlox and Veiny Pea.

Martin SWCD will expand our inventory of at-risk species, continue to work with the 118 species collected from 33 sites through the Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species project and survey and monitor additional remnants for at-risk plant populations. Most of the collection sites are located on private property where the landowners either donate the seed or are compensated for the value of the seed collected. Compensation to the landowners for the value of harvested plant materials helps reinforce the value of these parcels to remain natural rather than converting the remnants to other uses for financial gain.

Martin SWCD will share what it has learned through previously funded projects with all of the partnering SWCDs and their supporting partners. Lake County SWCD and Crow Wing SWCD will receive more one-on-one attention, while the remaining counties, as members of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and Cooperative Weed Management Area, already attend monthly meetings where projects and strategies can continue to be discussed and coordinated. This project will expand partners’ capabilities to work across political boundaries to preserve and enhance native habitats across the state. We will continue to partner with the Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area, replacing invasive species with local ecotype natives. The Prairie Enthusiasts - Many Rivers Chapter adds Nicollet County to the project area. Much of the expertise found within local, state and federal conservation agencies becomes available through the dedicated service of volunteers from these local organizations.

We expect to develop teams of natural resource professionals and volunteers in Crow Wing County and Lake County to help make local project decisions in those two project areas. Some of that groundwork has already been done with resource professionals and volunteers identified. In the cluster of 11 Southern Minnesota counties, agency staff, volunteers and organizations have a history of coordinating projects and providing support and input. Most, but not all, of the partners have been identified for this area.

Education, outreach and transfer of propagation techniques will occur across at least 13 counties, building local capabilities. The expertise gained from this project will be passed on to the next generation of conservationists. Educational activities and projects will contact at least 500 students for varied levels of involvement with the

project. Scout Troops, 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters and other youth organizations will take on components of the project as a club activity. Seed collection, seed cleaning, planting, site preparation and weed control are activities for youth involvement, individually or in groups of up to 20 or more. Project partners will also strive to increase the knowledge interested citizens have of native species and help them to get involved with the parts of projects they are most interested in.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 31, 2016:

Martin SWCD has expanded its inventory of at-risk species including Blue Eyed Grass, Prairie Turnip, Prairie Lily, Rough Blazing Star, Prairie Onion, Coreopsis, Great Blue Lobelia, Downy Gentian, and Bottle Gentian. Collection sites growing state listed species, including Tuberous Indian Plantain, Eared False Foxglove, and Sullivant's Milkweed continued to be monitored by project staff as well.

We have met with staff from Lake County SWCD and Crow Wing SWCD to identify target plant species and to further identify project sites. Martin SWCD staff has also updated members of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and Cooperative Weed Management Area on the project.

Project Status as of July 31, 2016:

Martin SWCD presented information about this project to conservation organizations, including a local Ducks Unlimited Chapter. We have also begun visiting sites for future projects and have met with project partners in Crow Wing County. University of Minnesota researchers presented on the project to the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Committee on their research standards and protocol.

Martin SWCD staff have worked with area schools and have presented to conservation groups and local clubs (Boy Scouts, High School Wrestling Club, etc.) about plant identification and native, local species. Martin SWCD staff has also spent time in Crow Wing County evaluating sites.

Project Status as of January 31, 2017:

Martin SWCD added a number of local ecotype species to Wildlife Management Areas identified on the Parcel List. Staff also partnered with a local high school, Martin County West, to increase the number of native plants in Martin County. Lake County SWCD staff continued their outreach efforts around identifying invasive species, particularly Japanese barberry and common buckthorn.

Project Status as of July 31, 2017:

Lake SWCD and Crow Wing have added sites for project work. Staff members from all counties continue to communicate and collaborate, sharing knowledge and experience with each other. Martin SWCD continues to work with local schools to increase awareness of local plant species.

Project Status as of January 31, 2018:

Martin SWCD staff worked with MCW School, wrestling club, and 4H clubs educating about plant identification and the importance of diversity on Native Prairies and its plant communities. Staff spent time with MCW School Biology class identifying plant communities on a local WMA; forest, prairie, and wetland. A portion of the prairie recently was burned by the DNR to control invasive species and prepare a seedbed for planting additional species. Communication and collaboration between Martin, Crow Wing, and Lake County SWCD continues in coordination with local partners.

Project Status as of July 31, 2018:

Overall networking and project progress continues. Goals for the next 6 months include reaching out to counties without current projects and continuing work on existing projects.

County Project Status:

- Martin – Staff spent time with Fairmont Elementary and Fairmont High Schools, educating students about native prairie and wetland plant communities. Plans to have students plant Porcupine Grass, Wild Garlic, and other species in a recently burned City prairie were changed due to wet weather. Instead, plants were planted in a school prairie.
- Lake – Employees partnered with Conservation Corps and other regional experts for local native seed collection.
- Crow Wing – Activity to date has been focused on assessing native seeded management areas, prepping Rotary park for 2019 planting, and planning for future native seed collection.
- Blue Earth – Work continues on a prairie restoration located on shallow soils.
- Brown – No activity to report at this time.
- Cottonwood – Project work is currently focused on invasive species eradication.
- Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
- Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
- Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
- Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
- Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
- Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
- Watsonwan – Partnering with Townships on invasive species removal.

Project Status as of January 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

- Blue Earth – The goal was to control invasive species.
- Brown – No activity to report at this time.
- Cottonwood – The goal was to control invasive species.
- Crow Wing – The focus was on invasive species control, prepping the Rotary Park one-acre seed bank plot, sourcing and collecting native seed. It involved planning, meeting with partners and contractors, on-going site assessment, scouting for native seed sources, collecting and coordinating with prairie restorations contract grower.
- Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
- Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
- Lake – No activity to report at this time
- Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
- Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
- Martin – The focus was on invasive species control and vegetation enhancement on restoration sites. Many species in greatest conservation need were propagated from local source seeds by a local grower and then transplanted onto suitable restoration sites. Approximately 250 Pasque Flowers, 250 Wood Lilly, 100 Ground Plum, and 250 Ground Cherry plants were transplanted. Additional seeds were sown on restoration sites for Blue Eyed Grass and Prairie Phlox. These were seeded or transplanted by Martin County West High School Students, Fairmont Elementary and High School students, Martin SWCD staff, a Conservation Corps Intern, volunteers and a local grower.
- Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
- Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
- Watsonwan – The goal was to control invasive species.

Amendment Request as of January 31, 2019

We wish to add two parcels to the parcel list for restoration sites. These parcels are both in Martin County and are publicly owned.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 2/12/2019.

Amendment Request as of May 1, 2019:

We are requesting funds be shifted from the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts budget item to Equipment/Tools/Supplies.

- The Graduate Assistant item would be reduced \$5,000 to \$75,000 total budget
- A new budget item, Propagation Supplies, would be increased from \$0 to \$5,000

Additional propagation supplies are needed to grow more local ecotype source plants in Martin County.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/10/2019.

Project Status as of July 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

- Blue Earth – The goal was to control invasive species.
- Brown – No activity to report at this time.
- Cottonwood – The goal was to control invasive species.
- Crow Wing – The focus for this period was installing plants at the Rotary Park with the assistance of volunteers and coordinating with the contractor on project site maintenance.
- Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
- Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
- Lake – No activity to report at this time
- Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
- Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
- Martin – Work continues to keep invasive weeds under control and restoring habitat with local native ecotype plants. A local grower continues to collect and propagate local native ecotype species that are difficult to grow.
- Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
- Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
- Watsonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Amendment Request as of July 31, 2019:

We are requesting a change in project manager to Ashley Brenke from Rich Perrine due to prior project manager retirement.

We are also requesting funds be shifted from the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts budget item to the Other – Project Costs budget item and shifted from Crow Wing County Native Plant Grower to Crow Wing County Restoration Technician.

- Graduate Assistant item would be reduced \$35,000 to \$40,000 total budget
- Other – Project Costs item would be increased from \$72,480 to \$107,480

- Restoration Technician in Crow Wing County would be increased \$10,000 to \$39,120 total budget
- Native Plant Grower in Crow Wing County would be reduced \$10,000 to \$14,960 total budget

These budget changes are being requested because some of the projects are larger than originally planned and require additional staff time.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 8/9/2019.

Project Status as of January 31, 2020:

County Project Status:

- Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
- Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Invasive species removal is almost complete at identified project site. Staff are now working on the planting plan and checking feasibility of other project locations.
Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD’s main goal was site planting and education on site maintenance in order to ensure long-term viability.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Lake SWCD staff have been working with local elected officials to find additional restoration sites on permanently protected property.
Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Work continues to keep invasive weeds under control and restore habitat with local native ecotype plants. A local grower continues to collect and propagate local native ecotype species that are difficult to grow.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

Amendment Request as of May 14, 2020:

We are requesting funds be shifted from the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts budget item (Lake County Mileage) to the Other – Project Costs budget item

Lake mileage Activity 1 item would be reduced \$1,600 to \$600 total budget
Lake mileage Activity 2 item would be reduced \$1,200 to \$200 total budget
Lake mileage Activity 3 item would be reduced \$2,120 to \$120 total budget
Project Costs Activity 1 would be increased \$6,480 to \$7,480 total budget
Project Costs Activity 2 would be increased \$79,000 to \$82,000 total budget

As a result, Activity 2 total is changing from \$228,600 to \$230,600 and Activity 3 is changing from \$94,000 to \$92,000.

These budget changes are being requested because the projects are more labor intensive than originally planned and require additional funds.

We also wish to add four parcels to the parcel list for restoration sites. These parcels are in Lake County and are publicly owned.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 5/28/2020.

Project extended to June 30, 2021 by LCCMR 6/18/20 as a result of M.L. 2020, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Sec. 2, legislative extension criteria being met.

Project Status as of July 1, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD staff planted locally sourced native species in a public natural area that was previously dominated by invasive buckthorn.
Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD staff are monitoring their local plantings, working to spot control invasive weeds, and providing education about their project to the local community.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD staff have been working with a local contractor to continue work on their four native planting sites.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff continue to remove invasive species from project sites and restore habitat with local native ecotype plants. They planned an educational event alongside UMN Extension. Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Project Status as of January 1, 2021:

Current Project Status

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD staff have been talking to Martin SWCD staff about the eligibility of additional restoration sites.

Crow Wing – No activity to report currently.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD staff worked with a local contractor to finalize work on their four native planting sites.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff restored sites with local native ecotype plants and continued to administer the grant.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

Minnesota is blessed to have a variety of habitats all across the state. The Thirteen Counties project focused on improving those diverse habitats by restoring uncommon native plant species. This had a secondary benefit of also providing habitat for other at-risk species. Local sourced species were chosen for planting that matched the growing conditions on the restoration site. Species selection was made depending on local species availability and the characteristics of the sites.

Plant materials were collected locally from species that have little or no presence in restorations. Over 50,000 plants were propagated of 50 different species. Prior to establishing new native plant species on site, invasive species sometimes had to be removed. Restorations occurred on over 15 different sites across the state. Funds were directly used on sites in 4 different counties and technical assistance was provided to projects in 2 additional counties. While projects did not occur in 7 of the counties, project participants still heard updates about grant progress at regional meetings in southcentral Minnesota. The degree of invasive species removal varied from site to site. Some of the invasive species removed during this project were Common Tansy and Japanese Barberry. Resilient native species, such as Grass Leaved Goldenrod, were planted in place of the invasive species with the goal of being able to out-compete the invasive species long term. In Cottonwood County, for example, invasive buckthorn was removed and replaced with local dogwood shrubs.

Martin SWCD and project partners reached over 700 people (volunteers, students, etc.) through direct interaction at planting events and workshops. Thousands more were reached through social media, newsletters, radio, and local newspapers. Over 20 workshops and trainings were held as well. Some of the workshops were hands-on activities in the field, where others were more general topics in a classroom that focused on the

difference between native and invasive species. Martin SWCD staff was able to share the knowledge they have gained about plant propagation from previous projects with other Southern Minnesota counties and with project partners at Crow Wing and Lake County SWCDs. The education transferred from experienced SWCD staff to new SWCD staff will be invaluable for years to come.

The most important achievement of this project is the number of people who learned more about habitats native to their region of the state. Individuals will take this knowledge and work on promoting and protecting native species in their own backyard, and pass it on for future generations to learn.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Collect and propagate plant materials from rare/difficult to start species.

Description: Plant materials will be collected from species that have little or no presence in plantings or restorations. These species will be propagated and planted into protected sites. Species that have not produced seed will continue to be monitored to catch “their year” when seed and/or vegetative growth is produced for use in the project. We will work with approximately 160 different native plant species. Species will be propagated in greenhouse space and/or open space, including planting directly into restoration sites.

Martin SWCD staff will share the knowledge they have gained about plant propagation from previous projects with other Southern Minnesota counties and with project partners at Crow Wing and Lake Counties. A student from the University of Minnesota will assist with establishing and monitoring plantings to understand how successful the natives are in surviving after planting and their resistance to invasive species.

In the southern counties, some species are scarce locally, in part because little suitable habitat remains. Some of these species include: Rattlesnake Master, Cream Wild Indigo, Porcupine Grass, Green Needle Grass, Prairie Dropseed, Partridge Pea, Green Milkweed, White Prairie Clover and Compass Plant. These species, and even species found on several sites, will be included in the project to help build biodiversity and enhance habitat quality. Even Butterfly Milkweed, Blazing Star species, Heartleaf Alexander, Tall Dropseed, Roundheaded Bush Clover, Pale Purple Coneflower, Culver’s Root, Prairie Ragwort and many more are not that common in the natural landscape. The focus is to incorporate as many of these and the less common species back into habitat restoration projects where the species lists have been rather short. The intent is to make the rarer species more common, to provide additional diversity on restoration sites, and to help provide these species with the capability of spreading to a larger percent of the natural landscape. Enhancing the “Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats” practice on conservation easements and adding acres of the practice is one of the easiest ways to add diversity to the natural landscape. Plantings on park property that is designated for long term natural habitat and adding species to existing DNR owned lands will add to the project objectives. Many of these sites are dominated by non-native species that will need significant site preparation prior to planting the appropriate native species.

Offering compensation to landowners for the value of plant materials collected from their property is an important component of this activity and is also important for landowner education. Whether compensated or offering plant materials as a project donation and project match, it is important that landowners are aware of the potential economic value as well as the ecological value of natural landscapes.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 172,400
Amount Spent: \$ 109,378
Balance: \$ 63,022

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Research available propagation information for each new species.	June 30, 2019

2. Develop a strategy to increase the plant materials for each species.	June 30, 2019
3. Collect seed/plant material as appropriate for each species, and prepare for planting.	November 30, 2019
4. Plant seed/plant materials in trays, plots and directly into restoration sites.	June 1, 2020
5. Monitor plantings, provide species specific care and weed control as needed.	June 30, 2020
6. Transplant or seed protected sites with propagated plant materials.	June 1, 2020

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2016:

Martin SWCD is in the process of getting an experienced orchid grower to start Small White Lady Slipper plants for expanding the only two known native populations located in Martin County. We have a volunteer who is working with the grower to gain the expertise in starting orchids. We intend to train some younger people on growing orchids and other plants, as many of us who have experience in propagating plants are getting older and it is important to pass on the procedures and skills.

We have also begun working with the University of Minnesota to establish research sites. Research spreadsheets are being developed along with site selection criteria for the sites that will be used for the research part of the project.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2016:

Staff from Martin SWCD and a local volunteer have been working with an experienced orchid grower to expand the population of Small White Lady Slipper plants. Staff members have also identified priority plant species, including Prairie Phlox, Porcupine Grass, Tick Trefoil, and Butterfly Milkweed, in need of additional locally sourced seed for placement on restoration sites.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2017:

Martin SWCD worked to increase the inventory of locally sourced seeds from species such as Arrowhead, Thimbleweed, Prairie Blazing Star, Sneezeweed, and Canada Milkvetch for use on restorations. Staff also worked with a local contractor to propagate plants from locally sourced seed. Additional sites of native plant populations have been marked using GPS. This process is critical to locating species with small populations in future years for seed collecting.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2017:

Martin SWCD has worked with a local grower to increase plant populations of prairie lily and other species from Martin County collected seed. Seed has also been collected from locally scarce species, including Blue Eyed Grass and Marsh Marigold.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2018:

Martin SWCD staff continue to monitor the growth progress of the MDA regulated Small White Lady Slipper which may be ready for transplanting into suitable protected sites in 2018 and 2019. Partridge Pea, Prairie Dropseed, Tall Dropseed and Prairie Ragwort are among the species that are being raised by a local grower. Transplanting on protected sites will continue to take place over the next few years. Prairie Phlox, Butterfly Weed, Heartleaf Alexander, Water Plantain, and Cream Wild Indigo seeds were collected from plots by staff, Conservation Corps Intern, 4H, and wrestling clubs and other volunteers increasing our inventory of local source seed.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2018:

County Project Status:

Martin – Contractor propagation of Prairie Lily, Meadow Blazing Star, and Small White Lady Slipper continues. Seeds were collected from Prairie Phlox and Green Needle Grass, among other locally scarce species.

Lake – Staff are researching additional species for propagation and reestablishment potential.

Crow Wing – Identifying native species for later seed collection and marking with GPS.

Blue Earth – No activity to report at this time.
Brown – No activity to report at this time.
Cottonwood – No activity to report at this time.
Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
Watsonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report at this time.
Brown – No activity to report at this time.
Cottonwood – No activity to report at this time.
Crow Wing – Research and scouting for additional native remnant prairie sites for seed collection.
 Contacts were made with landowners for permission to collect native seeds. Project partner volunteers contributed more than 127 hours on maintenance activities and seed collection.
 Rotary Club members and the City Parks Department mowed, cleared, treated, and chipped piles of buckthorn for removal.
Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
Lake – No activity to report at this time.
Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
Martin – Time was spent educating Fairmont High School and elementary students about local native ecotypes and propagating native plants in the school's greenhouse. The following scarce species were propagated by a local grower and transplanted into restoration sites: approximately 2,500 Meadow Blazing Star, 2,500 Prairie Blazing Star, and 200 Dotted Blazing Star. Seeds from Rattlesnake Master, Cream Wild Indigo, Porcupine Grass, Butterfly Milkweed, Heartleaf Alexander, Roundheaded Bush Clover, and Pale Purple Coneflower, were collected and sown on restoration sites. Assistance was given by volunteers, Martin County Wrestling club, Fairmont Area Kinship, 4H club, Boy and Girl Scouts, a local grower, and a Conservation Corps Intern to collect and seed native local ecotypes.
Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
Watsonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Activity 1 Status as of July 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report at this time.
Brown – No activity to report at this time.
Cottonwood – No activity to report at this time.
Crow Wing – Time was spent transplanting seedlings for future use on project sites.
Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
Lake – No activity to report at this time.
Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
Jackson – No activity to report at this time.

Martin – A local grower continues to propagate local ecotype species to be transplanted on permanent sites when ready. Local source ecotype plants being grown include Pasque Flower, Green Needle Grass, Blue Eyed Grass, Ground Plum, Veiny Pea, and Prairie Phlox. The grower continues to care for Small White Lady Slippers plants. Time was spent working with Fairmont High School students to grow local ecotype wetland plants.

Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.

Waseca – No activity to report at this time.

Watonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Activity 1 Status as of January 31, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD staff have been working to identify additional sources of native plant species.

Crow Wing – Species planted included Phlox pilosa, Dalea sp., Helium autumnale, veronica fasciculata, and asclepias tuberosa.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD staff have been working with Shoreview Natives on native planting plans for identified sites.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – A local grower continues to grow local native ecotype to be transplanted on protected sites. Seeds were collected from many rare uncommon species. Plants were grown in trays and gardens, and then transplanted in plots on a new prairie restoration site. Martin County West High School students, the wrestling club, volunteers, Martin SWCD staff, and two interns spent many hours assisting with the transplanting. Thousands of plants grown by this local grower have been transplanted on a prairie restoration site.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

Activity 1 Status as of July 1, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD staff located native plants for project use.

Crow Wing – Species planted included Zizia aptea, Monarda fistulosa and Iris versicolor. In 2022 there are plans to hold seed collection events when plants have matured and start to expand and colonize.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD staff have been working with Shoreview Natives on native planting plans for identified sites.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – A local grower continues to grow local native ecotype plants to be transplanted on protected sites. Seeds were collected from many rare uncommon species.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

Activity 1 Status as of January 1, 2021:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – No activity to report currently.

Crow Wing – No activity to report currently.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD staff partnered with local Master Gardeners and finished their native plantings.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Rare uncommon species were monitored.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

Final Report Summary:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD staff located native plants for project use.

Crow Wing – Over the course of the project, Crow Wing staff and volunteers located sites for native seed harvest and transplanted seedlings for project use. Some of the species they worked with included Phlox Pilosa, Monarda Fistulosa and Iris Versicolor. In 2022 they have plans to hold seed collection events when plants have matured and start to expand and colonize.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD staff partnered with local Master Gardeners and a local contractor to increase the number of locally sourced native plantings on local sites.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff worked with local students teaching them about local native ecotypes and propagated native plants in the school's greenhouse. Seeds were collected from uncommon species in order to be propagated. Additional sites of native plant populations were marked with GPS, a critical process to tracking and locating species with small populations.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

ACTIVITY 2: Planting local source native species into habitats to replace invasive species.

Description: This activity focuses on new restoration sites primarily where invasive species are being removed and replaced with competitive native species. Both prairie and forest habitats are included in this initiative. One of the main restoration goals is to fill every niche in the native landscape to increase resistance to invasion by non-native species. Adding native plant materials will provide the food base diversity to meet the needs of many species of concern on up the food chain. Work will be completed on approximately 50 sites, covering over 800 acres and will be conducted primarily on sites with permanent easements, County Parks, Municipal Parks, and State owned Wildlife Management Areas.

An example of this activity is the Perch Creek WMA and adjacent conservation easements, which are in the core of the local Blanding’s Turtle (state listed species) Priority Area. Work has been started there to remove invasive cattails, reed canary grass and smooth brome grass and replace them with local ecotype native plants that will be more suitable habitat for the turtles and the other species of wildlife using the Perch Creek corridor. New land acquisition has been a priority in this area, with one parcel recently added to the WMA and additional parcels in the process.

This area is expected to become a part of this grant project as plans for invasive species removal continue and native species are planted to replace them. On sites like these, it is extremely important to focus on site preparation to eliminate the invasive species and monitor the developing native stand to keep invasive species from reappearing. On this site there is an opportunity to allow the seedbank to respond where it exists and plant all local ecotype native plant materials to fill in the gaps where the seedbank is not there.

Martin SWCD and project partners will work with all new counties to help staff select suitable protected sites for restoration and help develop a comprehensive plan to successfully guide the removal of invasive species and replacement with local ecotype native plants. The plan will include the necessary site preparation to eliminate invasive species from the site. Species lists will be developed as needed for the various site characteristics. A planting plan, maintenance plan to ensure adequate stand development and prevent invasive species regrowth, and an agreement and budget for long term site management will be included.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 230,600
Amount Spent: \$ 169,219
Balance: \$ 61,381

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Remove invasive species from project sites where present.	October 31, 2019
2. Plant and/or transplant local source native plants into project sites.	June 1, 2020
3. Monitor sites, providing appropriate maintenance including weed control.	June 30, 2020

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2016:

Project work coordinated with DNR partners has progressed on the Perch Creek WMA in Martin County. A DNR burn was followed up with chemical Brome Grass, Reed Canary Grass, Canada thistle and some cattail treatment where needed. Aggressive native forb species were released by the treatments in some of the wet mesic areas. In other areas aggressive plants are being planted to suppress and replace the invasive species. Sunflower species along with a mix of Blue Vervain, Ironweed, Joe Pye Weed and Goldenrods are now dominating much of the areas previously dominated by Reed Canary Grass.

Under the direction of a DNR Ecologist, cereal rye is being used as a cover crop to suppress invasive species while providing protection for developing native plant seedlings in areas with no natural regeneration. In the areas with no sign of invasive species, the less common and rare plants are being planted. Porcupine Grass, Pasque Flower, Prairie Phlox, Heartleaf Alexander, Butterfly Milkweed, and Cream Indigo were dormant seeded.

These areas will continue to be planted with additional species as seed is made available. Seeds of several species are being stratified in the refrigerator for planting in May and June. Monitoring and spot treatment of invasive species will continue throughout the project timeline and probably beyond.

The Martin County Conservation Planning group has met and discussed the importance of diverse habitat on sites and the need to prioritize sites to maximize the benefits of protected and restored habitats. This group will continue to guide the selection of additional project sites.

Activity 2 Status as of July 31, 2016:

Cup Plant and Grass Leaved Goldenrod were transplanted onto the Center Creek WMA. After a weed suppression planting of annual rye, additional Butterfly Milkweed was seeded on the site. Additional sites for future work have also been identified by working with project partners.

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2017:

Martin SWCD transplanted a variety of species onto the Perch Creek WMA, including Ground Plum and Prairie Blazing Star. Additional transplanting of species, such as Meadow Blazing Star, occurred on Center Creek WMA. Both of these sites will continue to be monitored to track how successful the planting was and to know when spot treatment of invasive species needs to occur.

Activity 2 Status as of July 31, 2017:

Lake SWCD coordinated removal and treatment of two large patches of Japanese Knotweed in Two Harbors' municipal park property. Staff from Lake also completed two "remove and replace" activities in Two Harbors municipal space. These activities included removing individual common tansy plants and planting aggressive native species as a replacement. Native species planted included Wild Bergamot, Panicked Aster, Canada Goldenrod, Blue Giant Hyssop, and Cup Plant.

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2018:

Martin SWCD is working with the Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area, replacing invasive species with local ecotype native species. Project work continues on RIM and CREP perpetual conservation easements, on DNR WMAs, in parks, and on public school property controlling invasive species and reseeding with local ecotype. Staff assisted students from MCW School on their native prairie site, planting Meadow Blazing Star bulbs started from local source seed by a local grower. They also seeded Prairie Phlox, Butterfly Weed, Heartleaf Alexander, Wild Cream Indigo, Swamp Milkweed, Rattlesnake Master, Pale Purple Coneflower, and other species. In Lake county restoration of forest and forest fringe habitat is the focus. Crow Wing County has a combination of prairie and forest restoration underway. Blue Earth County has a prairie restoration in progress, on shallow soils over limestone bedrock.

Activity 2 Status as of July 31, 2018:

County Project Status:

Martin – Chemically eradicating invasive species, including reed canary grass, on WMAs.

Lake – Purchased additional equipment for more cost and time efficient invasive species maintenance.

Crow Wing – Monitoring Rotary park site for additional mowing and perennial weed spraying this summer.

Blue Earth – Site preparation through chemical treatment of brome grass and additional invasive species on a prairie restoration.

Brown – No activity to report at this time.

Cottonwood – Identification of potential site for buckthorn removal.

Faribault – No activity to report at this time.

Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.

Jackson – No activity to report at this time.

Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.

Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.

Waseca – No activity to report at this time.

Watowan – Removal of wild parsnip through the Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – Work was done to control invasive species.
Brown – No activity to report at this time.
Cottonwood – Work was done to control invasive species.
Crow Wing – Students in the Natural Resource program at Central Lake College, and their instructors, helped collect and identify native seed species. Site preparation was done using solarization to kill weed seeds on a one acre plot, eliminating the use of herbicides. Staff worked on preparing, processing, and labeling seed for a Prairie Restorations contract grower. Maintenance and control of invasive species continues on a ten acre buffer around the one acre parcel.
Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
Lake – Work continues to control invasive species and to enhance vegetation habitat.
Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
Martin – Local ecotype seed was sorted and prepared for seeding. Martin SWCD staff and Martin County West High School students transplanted pasque flower and three blazing star species onto protected restoration sites. Martin SWCD teamed up with Martin County Pheasants Forever chapter and the Fairmont Elementary First Grade class restoring habitat on two Wildlife Management Areas.
Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
Watsonwan – Work is being done to control invasive species.

Activity 2 Status as of July 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – Work is being done to control invasive species.
Brown – No activity to report at this time.
Cottonwood – Work was done to control invasive species.
Crow Wing – Rotary Club members, SWCD staff and volunteers seeded Rotary Park, and over 14,000 local native ecotype plants were planted at the project site.
Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
Lake – No activity to report at this time.
Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
Martin – 139 acres were added to the Caron WMA and the new site is being planted with local source ecotype seed and transplants from a local grower.
Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
Watsonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Activity 2 Status as of January 31, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – Buckthorn removal continues at project site.
Crow Wing – Staff have been working with contractor to develop plans for future site maintenance to keep invasive species off the site.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Black plastic has been installed at one of the project sites in order to remove the invasive species prior to site planting.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Invasive species control on the restoration site continues. Mowing, trimming, and tilling between the rows for control. Transplants are being planted to help outcompete with the invasive species on the site.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Activity 2 Status as of July 1, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – Locally sourced native shrubs and trees were planted in an area that was previously dominated by invasive buckthorn along a popular hiking trail.
Crow Wing – The contractor, in coordination with Crow Wing SWCD staff, continues to spot manage invasive species, including thistles, reed canary grass, and buckthorn.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – The contractor has completed site preparation on the three sites that will be installed with local native plant species.
Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Martin SWCD staff transplanted native local ecotypes grown by our local grower (Prairie dropseed and Rough blazing star) onto protected sites. Invasive species control continued on three restoration sites.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Activity 2 Status as of January 1, 2021:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – The planted site is continuing to be monitored and other sites are being assessed for restoration feasibility.
Crow Wing – No activity to report currently.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Local contractor planted a variety of native species, including black chokeberry, elderberry, and a variety of forbs, grasses, and sedges.
Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Martin SWCD staff transplanted native local ecotypes grown by our local grower onto protected sites.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Final Report Summary:

Blue Earth – Brome grass and additional invasive species were removed from a site for a prairie restoration.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Locally sourced native shrubs and trees were planted in an area that was previously dominated by invasive buckthorn along a popular hiking trail.

Crow Wing – Students in the Natural Resource program at Central Lake College, and their instructors, helped collect and identify native seed species. Staff worked on preparing, processing, and labeling seed for a Prairie Restorations contract grower. Rotary Club members, SWCD staff and volunteers seeded Rotary Park, and over 14,000 local native ecotype plants were planted at the project site.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD coordinated removal and treatment of two large patches of Japanese Knotweed in Two Harbors’ municipal park property. Staff from Lake also completed two “remove and replace” activities in Two Harbors municipal space. These activities included removing individual common tansy plants and planting aggressive native species as a replacement. Native species planted included Wild Bergamot, Panicked Aster, Canada Goldenrod, Blue Giant Hyssop, and Cup Plant. They also worked with a local contractor on a different City site to remove invasive species and plant a variety of native species, including black chokeberry, elderberry, and a variety of forbs, grasses, and sedges.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff, local high school students, and volunteers transplanted thousands of locally grown native plants from locally harvested native seed onto permanently protected restoration sites, including at a new County Park. Some of the species planted include Ground Plum, Prairie Blazing Star, and Meadow Blazing Star. Staff also worked with two local schools on establishing prairies near their schools.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watowan – Removal of wild parsnip through the Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area.

ACTIVITY 3: Education, outreach and technology transfer. Facilitate starting new projects.

Description: This 13 county initiative provides sharing of propagation methods, planting techniques and partnerships with others who have an interest in protecting native habitats and expanding the use of local source native species into suitable locations on habitat restorations. This project will help new partners get projects on the ground. Project partners will be encouraged to take advantage of recommended training to help with the development of their propagation skills and with identification of native plant seedlings.

Martin SWCD staff will conduct at least 4 “train the trainer” events in Crow Wing and Lake Counties and will coordinate and assist with workshops in those and other area counties. Staff from Crow Wing and Lake Counties will share their gained knowledge with each other and will also travel to Southern Minnesota for educational events and to see the actual growing equipment, propagation sites and project sites. Activities and projects will contact and involve at least 500 students and 100 adults in the 3 project areas (Southern Minnesota, Crow Wing County, and Lake County).

As soon as project activities can start, field trips will be planned with new project partners to inventory native plant collection sites and evaluate potential restoration sites. Species monitoring from bloom to seed collection will be reviewed for each species to be included in the project. Seed collection timing, seed handling, seed

preparation, seed storage, seed stratification, seed scarification, inoculants, site preparation, planting methods, growing medium, growing containers, growing conditions, greenhouse or sheltered propagation locations and starter plot locations are some of the important topics that need to be considered for each individual species and each project site, as well as for the project in general.

Funding for this activity will be used to train everyone involved in the project and to assist them with gaining hands on experience to complete all the steps necessary in the habitat restoration process: from collection site identification and verification through site preparation, planting, maintenance, weed control and long term maintenance and management of the restoration site. This activity will assist with the installation of new projects in new locations and help pass the expertise on to those who will need to manage the restored areas in the future. Education will be provided to the owners of native landscapes about the importance of protecting and maintaining their property. The importance of invasive species monitoring and removal and the importance of not planting exotic species and even cultivars of native species within and adjacent to native landscapes will be incorporated into this activity. The ecological importance and value of these pockets of natural landscape will be a focus of our education program.

A good share of the cost of this activity is time. It is primarily compensation for time spent educating and learning and seeking out those key people who have the expertise that can be honed to help make this project successful in multiple locations throughout Minnesota.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 92,000
Amount Spent: \$ 21,160
Balance: \$ 70,840

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Provide outreach to new potential users of project strategies and methods.	December 31, 2017
2. Work with identified project partners, train new individuals and expand capabilities.	October 31, 2018
3. Develop projects in new locations, expanding expertise to meet local needs.	June 30, 2018
4. Hold workshops to train the trainers for project implementation.	June 30, 2018
5. Hold workshops to educate and train the public as part of each local project kickoff.	October 31, 2019
6. Install projects in new areas, in counties where projects have not been done yet.	December 31, 2019

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2016:

We have met with staff from Lake County SWCD and Crow Wing SWCD to identify target plant species and to further identify project sites. The potential sites are all permanently protected and vary in size. Projects in Lake County SWCD will focus on removing invasive species such as buckthorn and common tansy. Martin SWCD is scheduling initial site visits in early 2016 in conjunction with project partners. Martin SWCD staff has also updated members of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and Cooperative Weed Management Area on the project and continues to seek project sites in additional counties.

Activity 3 Status as of July 31, 2016:

Martin SWCD staff traveled to Crow Wing County to look at sites for possible inclusion in the project. These sites are currently dominated by invasive species, such as buckthorn, which would be removed and restored with native vegetation. Crow Wing County staff traveled to Martin County to learn some of our collection site identification and verification processes. We are also lining up a site visit in Lake County. Experienced Martin SWCD staff continue to train new employees, students, and local clubs.

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2017:

Lake SWCD conducted a training for a local watershed advocacy group that consisted of observing infestations of Japanese barberry and common buckthorn in natural settings, learning how to identify the plants, and

learning about mechanical, fire, and chemical treatment options. Additional sites for habitat restoration have been identified in Crow Wing and Lake Counties.

Activity 3 Status as of July 31, 2017:

Crow Wing SWCD staff have been meeting with the City of Brainerd Parks Department and the local Rotary Club to plan work that will be completed at the local Brainerd Rotary Park. Lake SWCD have expanded their local and national inventory data collection for terrestrial invasive species. They have utilized and trained citizens in utilizing the Great Lakes Early Detection Network application, linked to EDDMaps, to report invasive species to the broader community.

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2018:

Staff attended a course on Common and State listed Terrestrial and Aquatic Weed Identification and Control, and a Mini Course at Iron Springs Bog SNA, identifying rare plant species. Martin SWCD hosted an Environmental Awareness Day for all Martin County 5th grade students. At this event, staff worked the prairie station educating students about the importance of plant diversity.

Activity 3 Status as of July 31, 2018:

County Project Status:

- Martin – Hosted an invasive species workshop with 20 attendees that covered good native species for restorations.
- Lake – Worked with volunteers on restoration site maintenance.
- Crow Wing – Researched practices and materials for solarization to prepare seed bed for restoration site.

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

- Blue Earth – Time was spent educating private landowners about invasive species control on propagation sites.
- Brown – No activity to report at this time.
- Cottonwood – Time was spent educating the City of Mountain Lake staff on invasive species control.
- Crow Wing – Presentation to the Brainerd Rotary Club to provide park update and status of seeding project. Students from Central Lakes College were instructed on the project, native plant identification, and seed collection.
- Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
- Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
- Lake – No activity to report at this time.
- Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
- Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
- Martin – Martin SWCD staff spent time educating Martin County West students about the importance of native local ecotype species. Landowners were educated about the economical and ecological value in local ecotypes. There was a radio broadcast, a local television station spot and an article in the local newspaper about the habitat restoration projects by Pheasants Forever, Martin SWCD, and the 1st grade class from Fairmont elementary school. Martin SWCD hosted Environmental Awareness Day for 300 Martin County 5th grade students. At this event, staff worked at the prairie station educating students about the importance of plant diversity.
- Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
- Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
- Watsonwan – Time was spent with township elected officials educating them on invasive species control.

Activity 3 Status as of July 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report at this time.
Brown – No activity to report at this time.
Cottonwood – No activity to report at this time.
Crow Wing – Worked with Central Lakes Community College staff and students, Rotary Club members, and local volunteers educating them on the importance of local ecotypes and controlling invasive weeds and buckthorn.
Faribault – No activity to report at this time.
Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.
Lake – No activity to report at this time.
Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.
Jackson – No activity to report at this time.
Martin – Martin SWCD staff assisted the Martin County West High School biology class with identifying local ecotype and invasive species during a biology field day. The District had two summer interns, through the Minnesota Valley Action Council and Martin County, who were educated about local ecotypes and assisted with transplanting and weed control. Martin County wrestling club, Martin County 4H club, and Martin County West Spanish class were taught how to identify native plants for seed collection and the importance of native local ecotype.
Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.
Waseca – No activity to report at this time.
Watsonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Activity 3 Status as of January 31, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – No activity to report currently.
Crow Wing – Worked with local interns on plant identification and provided information to Rotarians on buckthorn removal for site maintenance.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Working with local master gardeners. Providing educational materials on invasive species and local trees & shrubs to County residents.
Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Martin SWCD staff spent time educating the importance of using native local ecotype and having a diverse habitat on a site was explained to Martin County West High School students, the wrestling club, FFA club, and two college interns prior to restoration work. Updates were posted on the Martin SWCD website and Facebook page.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watsonwan – Staff reported on invasive species removal at an all Township meeting.

Activity 3 Status as of July 1, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – Education about native species continues in communications with Mountain Lake residents.
Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD staff purchased signs for site identification. In 2022 there are plans to hold seed collection events when plants have matured. The public will be invited to collect seed from these areas to grow their own pollinator friendly native landscape project.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Sign materials were purchased for identifying plants.
Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Updates were posted on the Martin SWCD website and Facebook page. An educational event was planned for the spring of 2020. Topics for the event included; controlling woody invasives, noxious weeds and plant species to watch out for. As well as habitat planning using native species and how it benefits your property for pollinators. An event brochure was published in the Fairmont Community Education and Recreation booklet. This event was canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Activity 3 Status as of January 1, 2021:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD continues to share project information with residents of the City of Mountain Lake.
Crow Wing – No activity to report currently.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Lake SWCD worked with Conservation Corps interns to develop educational materials about planted sites.
Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.
Jackson – No activity to report currently.
Martin – Updates were posted on the Martin SWCD website and Facebook page and shared via one-on-one conversations with County residents.
Nicollet – No activity to report currently.
Waseca – No activity to report currently.
Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Final Report Summary:

Blue Earth – Educated private landowners about invasive species control on propagation sites.
Brown – No activity to report currently.
Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD staff educated staff from the City of Mountain Lake staff about invasive species control. They also had one-on-one conversations about invasive and native species with local Mountain Lake residents.
Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD staff worked with Central Lakes Community College staff and students, Rotary Club members, and local volunteers educating them on the importance of local ecotypes and controlling invasive weeds and buckthorn. Crow Wing SWCD staff purchased signs for site identification. In 2022 there are plans to hold seed collection events when plants have matured. The public will be invited to collect seed from these areas to grow their own pollinator friendly native landscape project.
Faribault – No activity to report currently.
Freeborn – No activity to report currently.
Lake – Lake SWCD worked with Conservation Corps interns to develop educational materials about planted sites. They also expanded their local and national inventory data collection for terrestrial invasive species. They have utilized and trained citizens in utilizing the Great Lakes

Early Detection Network application, linked to EDDMaps, to report invasive species to the broader community.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Over the course of the project, Martin SWCD staff held multiple workshops that covered native and invasive species. They also worked with local school groups, conservation clubs, and service clubs. Martin SWCD staff met with staff from Lake County SWCD and Crow Wing SWCD to identify target plant species and to further identify project sites. An educational event was planned for the spring of 2020. Topics for the event included: controlling woody invasives, noxious weeds and plant species to watch out for. This event was canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watsonwan – Staff reported on invasive species removal at an all-Township meeting.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Project progress and results will be posted on the Martin SWCD website: www.martinswcd.net. The project will be featured twice each year in Martin County's "Conservation Update" which goes out countywide. Throughout this period, the project will be featured on numerous radio broadcasts and in supplemental educational articles through the local newspapers and other available media outlets of participant counties.

Status as of January 31, 2016:

This project was mentioned multiple times during our weekly radio broadcasts and was featured in our January "Conservation Update" which goes to the entire county. Martin SWCD also presented on the project to local high school students and to Martin County Commissioners.

Status as of July 31, 2016:

Martin SWCD staff presented on this project to local conservation organizations. Photos from project sites have also been featured on the District's social media site.

Status as of January 31, 2017:

The "Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats" project and photos from sites were featured prominently in the Martin SWCD Conservation Update. The project was also highlighted at the District's booth at the Martin County Fair.

Status as of July 31, 2017:

Lake SWCD staff published articles in local newspapers concerning Barberry's presence in their area and increased their visibility online through social media outlets with regards to educational and training opportunities involving terrestrial invasive species. Martin SWCD highlighted the project in their semiannual Conservation Update, which reaches over 12,000 people.

Status as of January 31, 2018:

Martin SWCD staff published articles in the Photo Press "conservation update" about project work that continues, utilizing local ecotype native plant materials to restore pollinator and wildlife habitat. Updates and photos of projects are shared on the District's social media site.

Status as of July 31, 2018:

Martin SWCD staff published an article in The Stewardship Network newsletter, "Greater Blue Earth CWMA's Prairie Enhancement Project," and highlighted some of their project work on social media. Crow Wing SWCD staff continue to partner with their local Rotary club on a park restoration and have put their restoration efforts on YouTube.

Status as of January 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report at this time.

Brown – No activity to report at this time.

Cottonwood – No activity to report at this time.

Crow Wing – Project plans and update was presented to the Rotary club, Community Lakes College Professors and students, and the City of Brainerd parks department staff.

Faribault – No activity to report at this time.

Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.

Lake – No activity to report at this time.

Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.

Jackson – No activity to report at this time.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff published articles in the Photo Press "Conservation Update" about project work that continues, utilizing local ecotype native plant materials to restore pollinator and wildlife habitat. Updates and photos of projects are shared on the District's social media site. This project was mentioned multiple times during our weekly conservation radio broadcast segment.

Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.

Waseca – No activity to report at this time.

Watonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Status as of July 31, 2019:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report at this time.

Brown – No activity to report at this time.

Cottonwood – No activity to report at this time.

Crow Wing – Articles were written for the local newspaper describing the efforts for the Rotary Park. Signs are being created to educate park users.

Faribault – No activity to report at this time.

Freeborn – No activity to report at this time.

Lake – No activity to report at this time.

Le Sueur – No activity to report at this time.

Jackson – No activity to report at this time.

Martin – Updates and photos of projects were shared on the District's website. Martin SWCD staff published articles in the countywide "Conservation Update" about project work that continues, utilizing local ecotype native plant materials to restore pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Nicollet – No activity to report at this time.

Waseca – No activity to report at this time.

Watonwan – No activity to report at this time.

Status as of January 31, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – No activity to report currently.

Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD worked with local media and had news coverage multiple times in the Brainerd Dispatch and the Lakeland News. Staff continue to work with and provide information to the local rotary club.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD has been providing information to local City Council members about project work and benefits to pollinators.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff published an article in the Fairmont Photo Press “Conservation Update” explaining project work on a prairie restoration. On one of the project sites, once the prairie has been restored the parcel will be managed by the MN DNR and open to the public for recreational enjoyment.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

Status as of July 1, 2020:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD has been providing information about native plantings on their social media sites.

Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD staff continue to work with and provide information to the local rotary club. They also continue to promote native plantings on their social media sites.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Local media, including the Duluth News Tribune, covered the native plantings happening in the city of Two Harbors.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD wrote an article for the local newspaper highlighting work that is being done with "Native Local Ecotypes used for prairie restorations". This article was published in the conservation update section of the Photo Press newspaper, which gets distributed throughout Martin County.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watonwan – No activity to report currently.

Status as of January 1, 2021:

County Project Status:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – No activity to report currently.

Crow Wing – No activity to report currently.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD has shared information about their project sites on their social media pages.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD wrote an article for the local newspaper highlighting work that is being done under this funding. This article was published in the Conservation Update section of the Fairmont Photo Press, which is distributed online and throughout Martin County.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

Final Report Summary:

Blue Earth – No activity to report currently.

Brown – No activity to report currently.

Cottonwood – Cottonwood SWCD provided information about native plantings on their social media sites.

Crow Wing – Crow Wing SWCD worked with local media and had news coverage multiple times in the Brainerd Dispatch and the Lakeland News. Staff worked with and provided information to the local rotary club as well as local schools. They also had information about the project on their social media sites.

Faribault – No activity to report currently.

Freeborn – No activity to report currently.

Lake – Lake SWCD has shared information about their project sites on their social media pages. Local media, including the Duluth News Tribune, covered the native plantings happening in the city of Two Harbors.

Le Sueur – No activity to report currently.

Jackson – No activity to report currently.

Martin – Martin SWCD staff published articles in the Photo Press “Conservation Update” about project work that continues, utilizing local ecotype native plant materials to restore pollinator and wildlife habitat. Updates and photos of projects are shared on the District’s social media site. This project was mentioned multiple times during our weekly conservation radio broadcast segment.

Nicollet – No activity to report currently.

Waseca – No activity to report currently.

Watsonwan – No activity to report currently.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 1.8

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 4.5

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			

Fox Lake Conservation League, Martin County Conservation Club (In-kind support)	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	Incentives toward volunteer services working directly on project activities
Martin County SWCD (In-kind support)	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,000	Work directly on project activities
Lake County SWCD (In-kind support)	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,940	Work directly on project activities
City of Brainerd (In-kind support)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Staff and/or equipment toward project work
Local Associations/Groups in Crow Wing County (In-kind support)	\$ 750	\$ 3,000	Project work
Landowner match (In-kind support)	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,500	Project work
Fox Lake Conservation League, Martin County Conservation Club (Cash support)	\$ 3,250	\$ 0	Match for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Cooperative Weed Management grant through BWSR
State			
Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Cooperative Weed Management grant through BWSR	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,188	Removal of invasive species Martin \$9,000, Cottonwood \$7,501, Watonwan \$4,000, and Blue Earth County \$4,687.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 56,750	\$ 40,628	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Project Partners Receiving Funds:

- Crow Wing County SWCD: \$54,080 to perform field research and project work.
- Lake County SWCD: \$54,080 to perform field research and project work.
- University of Minnesota: \$75,000 to collect field data (what species are most resilient to invasive species, what species have the best survival rates, etc).

Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:

- Counties/SWCDs in Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties: Providing local knowledge and project assistance.
- University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resource and Agricultural Management, Dean Current, Program Director: Providing field research knowledge.
- DNR Wildlife Research, Randy Schindle: Providing native plant expertise.
- DNR Nongame Specialist, Regional Ecologist and SNA Prairie Specialist: providing technical assistance and informational materials including department native seed origin guidelines and recommendations.
- The Prairie Enthusiasts - Many Rivers Chapter: Providing volunteer support.
- MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Dan Shaw, Native Vegetation Specialist: Providing native plant expertise.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: Providing Conservation Program expertise.

Lake County SWCD and Crow Wing SWCD will receive more one-on-one attention which is why they are receiving funding. The remaining counties, as members of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and Cooperative Weed Management Area, already attend monthly meetings where projects and strategies can continue to be discussed and coordinated.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project is part of a long term strategy to protect and manage natural landscapes and deal with invasive plant species that are invading and replacing the native species. These native species provide the habitat vital to the survival of the rare and at-risk species which rely on diverse native habitats for survival.

Management strategies developed or modified to meet local conditions and needs through this project are expected to be useful for habitat protection and restoration projects throughout the state. This project will work within the existing Cooperative Weed Management Area and encourage the expansion of CWMA efforts.

Key individuals and organizations will be identified in each project area to help develop the enthusiasm to drive and move the projects into the future, providing the support for maintenance activities and continuing to protect and add diversity to ecosystems as they develop.

Continued efforts to reduce the devastating impacts of invasive species and the protection and restoration of native plant communities will be needed from the LCCMR and many other sources if we are going to protect native habitats for future generations. The need is long term and statewide.

C. Funding History:

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
ENRTF for 2011-4n "Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species"	FY 12-14	\$ 147,000
ENRTF for 2008-3n "Prairie Ecosystem Restoration Project"	FY 09-10	\$ 80,000
USFWS Private Stewardship Grant	FY 03-04	\$ 35,800

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: See attached

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Restoration

- 1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.** All restoration activities being completed with funding through this project will be done on land protected by perpetual conservation easements or under public ownership and designated for long term protection.
- 2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.** For land protected by RIM perpetual conservation easements, the management plan is already on file in the SWCD office. If additional species are added to an existing practice, those species are listed on the plan or plan attachment and if any special care is needed, that information is added to the management plan. If the conservation plan is modified to change the practice, the plan revision will be approved by BWSR prior to beginning work. The practice "permanent vegetation already established" often is made up of or contains invasive species that must be removed for restoration work to be successful. Funding through BWSR will be applied for if available and if appropriate for the proposed project work. Periodic easement spot checks are required and any special maintenance needs will be noted for inclusion in these checks. For projects on publicly owned land, a conservation and maintenance plan will be developed with the public entity to ensure the site is protected and that the appropriate maintenance is scheduled for the native plant populations being restored and/or protected. A

copy of project agreements and plans will be kept in a cooperator file at the SWCD office and a copy will be provided to the public land manager.

3. **Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.** All habitat restoration projects utilize the BWSR “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” as a starting point for local ecotype source plantings. Maintaining a constant bloom period throughout the growing season is one of the project goals intended to ensure the establishment and development of ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement on the project sites.
4. **Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.** On conservation easements, work is being done with landowners who are enthusiastic about working with local ecotype native species and committed to providing the necessary maintenance to protect the work that is being done. RIM program funds will be requested if needed. Maintenance needs, including long term maintenance, are included in the plan for publicly owned land. The public land manager will agree to cover the cost of maintenance and have a plan to seek funds to cover the costs if needed. Assistance will be provided to help plan and budget for long term management and maintenance.
5. **Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.** Martin SWCD has been utilizing the Conservation Corps of Minnesota for help with project work and will continue to seek their assistance as well as to encourage partners to utilize their services.
6. **Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.** Many of the species being added to the conservation landscape are often slow to emerge and can remain dormant for several years at a time. In order to properly evaluate success, project sites will need to be monitored for several years in order to document each species as they appear within the developing ecosystem. Annual evaluations will be conducted to measure species diversity and plant density with the intent to add additional species if needed. During the first two years of establishment, multiple visits will be made to monitor stand development and stay on top of weed pressure and provide invasive species removal as needed.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See attached map

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than January 31, 2016; July 31, 2016; January 31, 2017; July 31, 2017; January 31, 2018; July 31, 2018; January 31, 2019; July 31, 2019; January 31, 2020, July 31, 2020 and January 31, 2021. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2021.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2015 Final Project Budget**



Project Title: Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b

Project Manager: Ashley Brenke

Organization: Martin Soil and Water Conservation District

M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$495,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 6 Years, June 30, 2021

Date of Report: August 16, 2021

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget 5.14.20	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget 5.14.20	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget 5.14.20	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	TOTAL Revised BUDGET 5.4.20	TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Collect and propagate plant materials from rare/difficult to start species.</i>			<i>Planting local source native species into habitats to replace invasive species.</i>			<i>Education, outreach and technology transfer. Facilitate starting new projects.</i>					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$31,960	\$15,691	\$16,269	\$40,000	\$22,089	\$17,912	\$30,000	\$14,583	\$15,417	\$101,960	\$52,363	\$49,597
Rich Perrine, Martin SWCD, Project Manager: \$41,600 (70% salary, 30% benefits); 10% FTE each year for 5 years												
Ashley Brenke, Martin SWCD, Technician: \$35,400 (70% salary, 30% benefits); 10% FTE each year for 5 years												
1 Seasonal Staff: \$24,960 (90% salary, 10% benefits); 20% FTE each year for 4 years to be used in Martin County and surrounding 10 counties												
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts												
Contract with the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to track genetic origin of native plant materials and maintain "Yellow Tag" eligibility for each species. Includes inspections of collection and planting sites and the tracking documentation. (Approx 0.1 FTE)	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000				\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
1 Graduate Assistant, Activity/Field Coordinator, data collection, project tracking: \$80,000 (90% salary, 10% benefits); 100% FTE for 2 years through the University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resource and Agricultural Management, Dean Current Program Director	\$20,000	\$11,258	\$8,742	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$11,258	\$28,742
1 Restoration Technician in Crow Wing County: \$29,120 (70% salary, 30% benefits); 10% FTE each year for 4 years, Propagation supplies	\$15,120	\$13,872	\$1,248	\$22,000	\$20,067	\$1,933	\$2,000	\$1,740	\$260	\$39,120	\$35,679	\$3,441
1 Native Plant Grower in Crow Wing County: \$24,960 (70% salary, 30% benefits); 20% FTE each year for 4 years to be used as needed where project activity is being focused within all participating counties	\$6,960	\$1,153	\$5,807	\$8,000	\$1,389	\$6,611				\$14,960	\$2,542	\$12,418
Propagation supplies for Crow Wing County: 100 Trays, inserts - 10 cases, 0.5 ton growing medium ingredients to blend a "soiless mix", trowels, gloves, spades, shovels, saws, shears, sprayers	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500	\$1,000	\$490	\$510	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$7,500	\$490	\$7,010
Mileage in Crow Wing County for local travel and mileage, lodging, and meals for outreach, education, and project development at distant sites for Crow Wing County	\$1,600	\$6	\$1,594	\$1,200	\$229	\$971	\$2,120	\$260	\$1,860	\$4,920	\$495	\$4,425
1 Restoration Technician in Lake County: \$29,120 (70% salary, 30% benefits); 10% FTE each year for 4 years	\$15,120	\$12,336	\$2,784	\$12,000	\$11,539	\$461	\$2,000	\$1,508	\$493	\$29,120	\$25,382	\$3,738
1 Seasonal Staff in Lake County: \$24,960 (90% salary, 10% benefits); 20% FTE each year for 4 years to be used as needed where project activity is being focused within all participating counties	\$12,960	\$10,670	\$2,290	\$12,000	\$10,985	\$1,015				\$24,960	\$21,655	\$3,305
Propagation supplies and tools for Lake County: 100 Trays, inserts - 10 cases, 0.5 ton growing medium ingredients to blend a "soiless mix", trowels, gloves, spades, shovels, saws, shears, sprayers	\$5,500	\$3,105	\$2,395	\$1,000	\$1,286	-\$286	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$7,500	\$4,392	\$3,108

Mileage in Lake County for local travel and mileage, lodging, and meals for outreach, education, and project development at distant sites for Lake County	\$600	\$256	\$344	\$200	\$108	\$92	\$120	\$41	\$79	\$920	\$404	\$516
Equipment/Tools/Supplies												
Plant materials: Approx. 500 lbs of pure live seed @ \$75/lb. ave.; cuttings, roots, rhizomes, bulbs 10,000 @ \$1.00 ea.; plants 10,000 @ \$2.00 ea; trees & shrubs 3,750 @ \$2.00 ea.	\$40,000	\$33,877	\$6,123	\$35,000	\$31,968	\$3,032				\$75,000	\$65,845	\$9,155
Soils testing: sampling supplies and sample analysis	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000							\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Propagation supplies				\$5,000	\$1,846	\$3,154				\$5,000	\$1,846	\$3,154
Printing										\$0	\$0	\$0
Education/outreach supplies: Publications, handouts, visual aids							\$5,000	\$1,570	\$3,430	\$5,000	\$1,570	\$3,430
Travel expenses in Minnesota												
Mileage in Southern Minnesota for local travel averaging less than 50 miles per round trip, 110 trips between collection, propagation and planting sites (approx. 5,000 miles)	\$1,600	\$1,390	\$210	\$1,200	\$1,285	-\$85				\$2,800	\$2,675	\$125
11 trips for outreach, education, speakers and project development at distant sites: Mileage for 500 miles average round trip (approx. 5,500 miles), lodging and meals (approx. \$2,680)							\$5,760	\$359	\$5,401	\$5,760	\$359	\$5,401
Other												
Education/outreach expenses: Facility rent for workshops and project kickoff events							\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Project costs: Mechanical debris removal/management, site preparation and mechanical planting, equipment rental and custom work on approximately 55 individual projects	\$7,480	\$5,764	\$1,716	\$82,000	\$65,940	\$16,060	\$22,000	\$1,100	\$20,900	\$111,480	\$72,804	\$38,676
COLUMN TOTAL	\$172,400	\$109,378	\$63,022	\$230,600	\$169,219	\$61,381	\$92,000	\$21,160	\$70,840	\$495,000	\$299,757	\$195,243

Thirteen Counties Propagating Native Plants and Restoring Diverse Habitats

Selected project site photos

Crow Wing SWCD Project



CLC NR Students collect native seed



June 10, 2020. Type 3 wetland plot 1 regrowth. Marsh Milkweed, Sweet Flag, and Blue flag Iris.

High School students from Martin County planting on a restoration site

