

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 23, 2026

## M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

**Project Title:** Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Forest Restoration and Enhancements

**Project Manager:** Melissa Barrick

**Affiliation:** Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District

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**Website:** <https://www.cswswcd.org>

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a and M.L. 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

**Appropriation Amount:** \$731,000

**Amount Spent:** \$679,077

**Amount Remaining:** \$51,923

### Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The TNC, SWCD, and GRG, through the Camp Ripley partnership, completed 17 prescribed burns on 975 acres and 10 burn plans, restored 103 acres of public land habitat, 79 forest management plans on 10,848 acres, and restored 203 acres of private land habitat.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project has established a sustainable inter-agency, public-private partnership for Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. Please see the results by activity below:

Activity 1: GRG restored and enhanced an additional 4 acres of habitat, utilized over 90 volunteers to assist with the native planting project, and leveraged over \$93,000 in cash contributions, private donations, and grant funds from the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. Restoration activities included five sites: red and bur oak and white pine releases (48 acres), jack pine savannah restoration (8 acres), tree and shrub planting (28 acres), prairie establishment (6 acres), and buckthorn restoration (13 acres).

Activity 2: TNC hired prescribed burn crews in spring 2023, fall 2023, and spring 2024. During each of these burn seasons, crews prepared multiple burn locations and, when conditions were favorable, burned the sites. The TNC leveraged federal and private sources to help support their work and increased their outcomes in invasive species treatments and timber stand improvement work on other sites within the Sentinel Landscape.

Activity 3: Nineteen landowners enrolled 2,279 acres into the long term covenant with State of Minnesota called Sustainable Forest Incentive Act, four landowners were enrolled in Army Compatible Use Buffer Program permanent conservation easement, eleven landowner enrolled into a best management practice through SWCD, Natural Resource Conservation Service, or private forester consultant, and five landowners enrolled 560 acres of forest land into Class 2c Managed forest land.

Best management practices included: seven landowners completed 132 acres of buckthorn management and brush management, four landowners completed 7 acres of native planting and pollinator habitat, and one landowner completed wildlife habitat nesting boxes on 63 acres. Landowners contributed over \$79,131.90 in cash and in-kind contributions.

These outcomes strengthen the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape partnership and enhance private and public partnerships for forest habitat conservation.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

The Crow SWCD reached out to 3,000 people through public events and meetings, sent direct mail to 126 individuals, produced three SWCD Annual Reports (2022, 2023, 2024) featuring projects and forest stewardship plans, utilized Facebook and SWCD email newsletter to highlight the annual report and Environmental Natural Resource Trust Funded projects, created one YouTube video news story, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency published a story on the City of Baxter's Whiskey Creek Prairie project. See links to videos below:

<https://youtu.be/GdZRPnr4uTc?si=urMs1AlPMtRctMxY>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/baxter-good-samaritan>



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** January 30, 2026

**ID Number:** 2021-022

**Staff Lead:** Michael Varien

**Project Title:** Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Forest Restoration and Enhancements

**Project Budget:** \$731,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Melissa Barrick

**Organization:** Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District

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**Email:** melissa@cswgcd.org

**Web Address:** <https://www.cswgcd.org>

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** January 23, 2026

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** January 23, 2026

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2025

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a and M.L. 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

**Appropriation Language:** \$731,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District to partner with the Nature Conservancy and Great River Greening to develop forest stewardship plans, restore habitat, and conduct prescribed burns to advance forest restoration and enhancement on public and private lands within an approximate ten-mile radius around Camp Ripley. Notwithstanding subdivision 13, paragraph (e), this appropriation may be spent on forest management plans, fires, and restoration on lands with a long-term contract commitment for forest conservation. The restoration must follow the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. and (a) The availability

of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2025: (16) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 6, section 2, subdivision 8, paragraph (a), Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Forest Restoration and Enhancements;

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2025

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** This project will build a sustainable inter-agency private and public Camp Ripley landscape forest restoration program which includes:

- Prescribed Fire (550 acres)
- Habitat Restoration (90 acres)
- Forest Management Plans (65)

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

This project will mitigate north central Minnesota forest fragmentation, poor interagency planning, inadequate forest management, and fire suppressed habitats for private and public lands within an approximate 10-mile radius around Camp Ripley (805,000 acres). In 2015, this area was federally designated as the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL). This area contains 45,000 acres of lakes and streams, 30,825 acres of permanently protected land (Easements and Fee Acquisition), 50 miles of the Mississippi River, 52,000 acres of State Game Refuge, 13 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Wildlife Management Areas, County, and City Land. Throughout the CRSL, riparian forest areas are threatened by rapid urban and rural development (MN 2010 Census Data). To date, the CRSL partner team has developed relationship with 400 landowners for protection and restoration. However, restoration work funding has been lacking. The CRSL partnership does not have the resources or staff to assist with forest restoration. The CRSL team utilized Landscape Stewardship Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, county water plan, MN DNR forestry plan, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Multiple Benefits Analysis, and CRSL Strategic Plan to target restoration projects which will maintain local economy and the Camp Ripley training needs.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CW SWCD) will partner with TNC, Great River Greening (GRG), Todd, Morrison, and Cass SWCDs to complete:

- 65 forest stewardship plans (FSPs) and 20 best management practices (BMPs)
- Restore and enhance 90 acres of public land
- Implement prescribed fire on approximately 550 acres of protected forest lands

This Phase II proposal builds off the success of the CRSL protection work and the CW SWCD 2016 Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund grant that completed 65 private FSPs and enrolled private landowners into Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) or county 2c tax programs, and restored forest on private and public lands. This project will utilize an existing landowners list and prioritize public sites. The ranked sites will provide the greatest habitat and clean water values within targeted minor watersheds. The CW SWCD will partner with GRG to restore and enhance 90 acres (two cities, two agencies) of public land. TNC will develop prescribed fire implementation (approximately 550 acres) on fire-dependent systems. The CW SWCD will follow MN DNR requirements for FSPs and Board of Water Soil Resources (BWSR) State Cost-Share Policies for BMPs. This includes contracts, site inspection, plans, cost-estimates, and SWCD Board approval.

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

This project will focus on the following outcomes:

1. GRG will focus on forest restoration and enhancement of 90 acres of public lands within the project focus area.
2. TNC will develop and implement prescribed fire on approximately 550 fire-dependent forested acres of public and conservation easement lands within the project focus area.
3. CW SWCD and private consultants will develop 65 FSPs with private landowners and have landowners enroll into SFIA or county 2c to ensure forest and habitat protection. The landowners will implement 20 BMPs. All projects will have a life span of 10 years.

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Watershed(s): Mississippi River - Brainerd, Crow Wing River, Long Prairie River,

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Watershed(s): Crow Wing River, Mississippi River - Brainerd, Long Prairie River,

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Restoration/Enhancement on Public Lands including Volunteer Engagement

**Activity Budget:** \$262,500

**Activity Description:**

GRG will restore and enhance 0.4 mile of shoreline and 90 acres of forest and other habitat on federal, state, and local government land. Activities include:

- prairie restoration with emphasis on pollinator needs
- thinning of jack pine to convert to a savanna
- planting in forest gaps
- controlling overabundant hazel
- controlling non-native invasive species
- tree planting and forest thinning

A total of 55 volunteers will be engaged in appropriate, impactful, educational, and engaging portions of the work such as seed collection, forb planting, and tree planting.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Participant agreements executed.	February 28, 2024
Implementation completed.	June 30, 2025
Management plans written.	June 30, 2025

### Activity 2: Enhancement of public lands and private easements with prescribed fire

**Activity Budget:** \$187,500

**Activity Description:**

TNC will focus on increasing fire-dependent native plant communities throughout the forested ecosystems of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. TNC will collaborate with local partners and private landowners to determine priority of treatment areas. TNC will conduct prescribed fires in forested communities to help improve understory conditions to enhance regeneration of desirable species such as oak and pine. On sites where invasive species are present in the understory, TNC crews will use mechanical and chemical treatments to restore site conditions to make fire management effective.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Acquire appropriate equipment, personnel, and supplies to prepare for implementation.	December 31, 2022
Implement forest enhancement through prescribed fire and fuels treatments on roughly 550 acres.	June 30, 2025
Author ten prescribed fire burn plans and identify scope of work for each site.	June 30, 2025

### Activity 3: Landowner outreach, private forest management plan writing, and landowner enrollment in forest programs and forest restoration on private lands.

**Activity Budget:** \$281,000

**Activity Description:**

CW SWCD or private forest consultants will outreach to prioritized private forest landowners, develop 65 FSPs, 20 BMPs,

and enroll landowners in local county 2c or SFIA programs. Options for landowners to enroll are:

Easement - if a landowner is in, or enrolling into a perpetual conservation easement (permanently protected), we will cover the FSP costs and offer BMP cost share.

SFIA - If the landowner is in, or enrolling into SFIA, we will cover the FSP costs and offer BMP cost share. SFIA is covenant with the State of Minnesota requiring to keep their land a forest describe under the FSP for eight, twenty-five, or fifty years.

MN SFIA staff indicate the only landowners that have unrolled SFIA is to go permanent conservation easement. The State have adopted FSIA as protected land.

2c - If the landowner is enrolling into 2c, we will cover the costs of the FSP if the landowner performs at least one of the available BMP's with cost-share.

Cost-Share contract requires the landowner keep the practice on their land for a minimum of 10 years for landowner is in easement, SFIA, or 2c. The project will follow BWSR State Cost-Share.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
1. Convene and coordinate six partner meetings and three community landowner meetings.	June 30, 2025
2. Targeted landowner solicitation, civic engagement, and project management (minimum of 50 landowners).	June 30, 2025
3. Write 32 FSPs by CW SWCD and 33 FSPs by private foresters.	June 30, 2025
4. Implement 20 BMPs on private lands (riparian buffer, forest management, and invasive species mitigation).	June 30, 2025



## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Wiley Buck	Great River Greening	Activity 2: Sub-award Project Manager	Yes
Matt Graeve	The Nature Conservancy	Activity 3: Sub-award Project Manager	Yes

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

The partnership will ensure we follow ENRTF Acknowledgement guidelines and utilize the logo in all our projects' print, web, and social media materials. The Crow Wing SWCD will use social media, press releases, landowner events, county tours, county fairs, posters, handouts, and other mechanisms to showcase the use of the funds for conservation. We will also highlight individual landowner stories throughout the grant period.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

The CRSL partnership will leverage federal, state, local and private funds, and programs. Current pending applications are the following:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service -Regional Conservation Partnership Program for Health Forest Reserve (applied for)
- Readiness Environmental Protection Integration Pilot project, Camp Ripley restoration program and local/private in-kind support (\$300,000).
- US Forest Service restoration and enhancement (\$250,000)

It is critical to leverage state funds in order to draw federal fund support for this large forest management/restoration initiative. The combination of state and federal funds produces measured results for land and water habitat, water quality, and the local economy.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Forest Management for Mississippi River Drinking Water Protection	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 08f	\$300,000
Protecting North-Central Minnesota Lakes	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$750,000

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>Personnel</b>										
Administration		Contract/Administration			28%	0.36		\$29,500	-	-
SWCD Technician		Activity 3: Coordinate landowner projects and forest stewardship plans.			28%	0.96		\$60,000	-	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$89,500</b>	<b>\$47,787</b>	<b>\$41,713</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>										
Great River Greening	Subaward	Activity 1: Restoration services on public forest land and grasslands including volunteer engagement. Funds for competitive and potential CCMI subcontracts, personnel, travel, mileage, and supplies. Other Expenses include: Volunteer Event Expenses including healthy food, beverage, and toilet and tent rental.		X		1.71		\$262,500	\$262,500	-
The Nature Conservancy	Subaward	Activity 2: TNC Field Crew Salary and benefits for field crew members, misc. supplies, mileage, and implement prescribed fire.				4.5		\$187,500	\$187,500	-
Private Consultant Forest Stewardship Plan Writers	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Activity 3: To write forest stewardship plans for private landowners.				0		\$95,000	\$94,834	\$166
30 Landowners will complete BMPs	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Activity 3: Provide landowners Cost-Share Funds to implement 30 habitat and forest BMPs. A 10 year Cost-share Funds contract signed by SWCD and Landowner. The landowners occurs all cost and until the project is completed. Once the project is completed, inspected, and expenses reviewed, the SWCD will reimburse landowner cost-share.				0		\$90,000	\$84,651	\$5,349

							Sub Total	\$635,000	\$629,485	\$5,515
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>										
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 3: Action items 3 and 4: Travel to sites for projects 4,000 miles.	To visit sites and help landowners complete BMPs and FSPs					\$2,000	\$360	\$1,640
							Sub Total	\$2,000	\$360	\$1,640
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										
	Publication	Activity 3: Action item 2: Mailings, maps, and brochures 3000.	Landowner outreach about conservation programs.					\$3,000	\$1,112	\$1,888
	Printing	Activity 3: Action Item 2: Printing of program materials 3000 copies.	To complete landowner outreach and grant requirements					\$1,500	\$333	\$1,167
							Sub Total	\$4,500	\$1,445	\$3,055
<b>Other Expenses</b>										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$731,000	\$679,077	\$51,923



## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
<b>Contracts and Services</b> - Great River Greening	Subaward	Activity 1: Restoration services on public forest land and grasslands including volunteer engagement. Funds for competitive and potential CCMI subcontracts, personnel, travel, mileage, and supplies. Other Expenses include: Volunteer Event Expenses including healthy food, beverage, and toilet and tent rental.	Healthy food and beverage are a recruitment tool and safety item as we do not want volunteers hungry or thirsty. Toilet rental where otherwise not available; tent rental when weather forecast indicates the need.

## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>State</b>						
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Non-State</b>						
Cash	Federal, local government units, foundation, and corporate	Activity 1: primarily for GRG personnel costs, volunteer events, and plants.	Secured	\$7,000	\$7,000	-
In-Kind	Landowners	Activity 1: project management assistance and heavy equipment.	Secured	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
In-Kind	Total of 200 volunteer hours at \$24/hr (MN-DNR NCLI posted rate).	Activity 1: seed collection, forb planting, and tree planting.	Secured	\$3,400	\$3,400	-
In-Kind	General support funds (foundations, corporations, and private donations).	Activity 1: GRG overhead costs covered by General Operating Support grants.	Secured	\$29,000	\$1,000	\$28,000
In-Kind	TNC indirect expenses.	Activity 2: TNC indirect expense to do the work for this grant will be leveraged in support of the project. These expenses will not be tracked or reported, and are not to be considered match.	Secured	\$44,250	\$35,024	\$9,226
In-Kind	Landowner share to the project cost.	Activity 3: Landowner contribution to the project in labor or material cost. The CW SWCD requires a 50 percent match for the project.	Secured	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$203,650</b>	<b>\$166,424</b>	<b>\$37,226</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$203,650</b>	<b>\$166,424</b>	<b>\$37,226</b>

## Acquisition and Restoration

### Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Belle Prairie County, Park, Phase 2	Morrison	45-acre habitat mosaic along 3400' of the Mississippi River , which is also a cultural site with known archaeological significance, and a popular destination for hiking, fishing, and picnicking.	Restoration	20	0.64	\$122,000	Public		Completed
Department of Military Affairs	Cass	Series of habitat blocks adjacent to Camp Ripley, with hunting.	Restoration	28	-	\$28,000	Public		Completed
Mississippi River Overlook Park	Crow Wing	Large habitat area with high quality forest, wetlands, extensive Miss River shoreline	Restoration	13	-	\$38,000	Public		Completed
Northland Arboretum Savanna	Crow Wing	40 ac. of rare, Jack Pine and Oak Savanna enhancement as part of the larger 583 acre Northland Arboretum habitat mosaic, and adjacent to 40 acres that has previously been successfully restored to savanna.	Restoration	40	-	\$42,000	Public		No Longer Being Considered
Pillager Point	Cass	Underutilized natural area with quality terrace forest and shoreline at the confluence of Pillager Creek and Crow Wing River.	Restoration	6	0.3	\$34,000	Public		Completed
Pillsbury State Forest/Stump Lake AMA	Cass	The purpose of this work is to release oak and pine tree species from aspen and other competition so that the forest resources in this area retain species diversity and mast production for wildlife.	Restoration	124	-	\$35,000	Public		Completed
Ripley Esker SNA	Morrison	Premiere example of rare esker geology; habitat mosaic of prairie, oak woodland, forest, and wetland; MCBS rating of high;	Restoration	40	-	\$120,000	Public		No Longer Being Considered
Scenic River Jack Pine Savanna	Crow Wing	Under utilized and unnaturally dense jack pine stand very near and paralleling Mississippi River. Within avian flight distance of Paul Bunyan Jack Pine Savanna.	Restoration	12	-	\$38,500	Public		No Longer Being Considered
<b>Totals</b>				<b>283</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>\$457,500</b>			

## 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 GRG and TNC restoration work will take place on land in public ownership or permanently protected by a conservation easement.

The SWCD restoration work take place on land that have conservation easement permanently protected or enrolled in 2c or SFIA programs. The SWCD will work with landowners to enroll their forest land into SFIA.

### **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.**

All sites that are enhanced and restored through this work will see improved habitat conditions for wildlife and pollinators, reduced invasive species populations, and improved conditions for forest regeneration. Management activities will be based on management plans and recommendations from each site's respective land manager(s), and will utilize most current BMPs. Records of management activities will be kept on file both with the implementing agency and the respective land manager(s). Utilizing adaptive management, activities will be evaluated after implementation and will provide input for adjustments to management plans and future planned activities for each site.

### **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 restoration and enhancement work will be done in accordance with the BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines. All project will utilize all native seed mixes for all BMPs. All projects will follow the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service Practice Field Guide. Management will focus on restoring ecological processes such as prescribed fire and reducing invasive species populations. These management activities will enhance native ecosystem function by improving soil health and nutrient cycling, while creating enhanced growing conditions for more vigorous native plant growth. Overall efforts will be aimed at improving function and resilience within the larger landscape to improve habitat conditions for pollinators and wildlife.

### **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.**

CW SWCD will utilize the BWSR State Cost-Share Contract and process which includes:

- 1) A Cost-Share Contract and maintenance plan between the SWCD Board and landowner/land occupier.
- 2) SWCD will complete maintenance inspections on the 1, 3, and 9 year after project completion.
- 3) Landowner will be required to have a 50 percent match towards the project.

After the second year, the project participant will be required to maintain the site annually.

After the appropriation, long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds become the responsibility of the landowner, as part of a written agreement between the landowner and GRG. GRG continues to monitor the sites, communicates with landowners, and seeks to assist with maintenance when possible. On public lands, resources that are currently available resources to public land managers will allow for completion of long-term maintenance and management needs after the initial restoration and enhancements are made on these sites.

### **5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.**

CCMI will be contacted once the grant funding is secured to seek their interest in the various restoration activities. Projects will incorporate CCMI field crews when applicable to assist with the enhancement and restoration activities. Habitat enhancement crews may at times be a blend of hired staff and CCMI crews.

### **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.**

CW SWCD will complete project evaluations on all restoration activities and follow BWSR inspection schedule which requires inspection year 1, 3, and 9. An evaluation report will be filed with the project folder. An adaptive management approach will be utilized, all phases of restoration and enhancement work will be evaluated to help inform future management efforts.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### Map

File: [b880e2ab-817.pdf](#)

#### Alternate Text for Map

Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape and Project Area Boundary for Activity 1, 2, and 3....

#### Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
CW SWCD Board Minutes 03.18.20	<a href="#">aa30f067-a86.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

*Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Camp Ripley Letter of Support	<a href="#">2e3fb413-e92.doc</a>
GRG Board Resolution	<a href="#">67eeb09b-5d7.pdf</a>
GRG Qualifications	<a href="#">ae163405-1bd.pdf</a>
Northland Arboretum Letter of Support	<a href="#">97a8afe0-eda.pdf</a>
Cass SWCD Letter of Support	<a href="#">7dd507a7-f04.pdf</a>
Morrison SWCD Letter of Support	<a href="#">9bfe28fe-27f.pdf</a>
Todd SWCD Letter of Support	<a href="#">1be18ff3-856.pdf</a>
City of Pillager Letter of Support	<a href="#">0f108e0d-9fe.pdf</a>
TNC Leverage Support Letter	<a href="#">58a08bcb-ba1.pdf</a>
TNC Qualifications	<a href="#">bf3b2bcd-2d3.pdf</a>
Background Check Certification Form ENTF Crow Wing SWCD	<a href="#">6ba91459-87e.pdf</a>
Outreach Brochure	<a href="#">cc9c9629-d62.pdf</a>
Outreach Report	<a href="#">93ded315-dcc.pdf</a>
2023 Conservation Report	<a href="#">91d0b008-f1d.pdf</a>
2024 Crow Wing SWCD Conservation Report	<a href="#">547cbb3a-257.pdf</a>
Final Report	<a href="#">75ab5801-ce9.pdf</a>
TNC Map of Prescribed Burns	<a href="#">a258b3bf-26a.pdf</a>
Great River Greening Map of Restoration Sites	<a href="#">f713410d-4d4.pdf</a>
Belle Prairie Restoration Map	<a href="#">0182670f-6ed.pdf</a>
Miss. River Overlook Park	<a href="#">848edcd5-930.pdf</a>
Pillager Point	<a href="#">935a0bdd-9f1.pdf</a>
Pillsbury State Forest	<a href="#">cdd2ceb4-c65.pdf</a>
RGMA North	<a href="#">662ec9e2-4df.pdf</a>
RGMA South	<a href="#">71ec3d80-3c2.pdf</a>

#### Media Links

Title	Link
Pillager High School Students Plant Native Shrubs and Plants	<a href="https://youtu.be/-3uSdDoMRfg">https://youtu.be/-3uSdDoMRfg</a>
Northwoods Experience: Crow Wing SWCD Hosts Bus Tour of Conservation Projects   Lakeland News	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdZRPnr4uTc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdZRPnr4uTc</a>
Former golf course in Baxter becomes new stormwater garden to help the Mississippi	<a href="https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/baxter-good-samaritan">https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/baxter-good-samaritan</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

The SWCD, TNC, and GRG adjusted both total acres of activities and budget to scale the project. GRG zeroed out the Lake Alexander parcel; reduced the scope of the DMA sites from one to two units; and scaled the Scenic River Savanna project. Note that the Scenic River Savanna project has relatively fixed labor costs for RFP and subcontract, so the price per acre went up some due to loss of economy of scale; this economy of scale should be recovered when the project is ultimately completed on all acres.

10.09.20- made requested adjustment to the work plan. I am not sure why but the reporting schedule does not show up in the word version of Aug 1 and Feb 1 it shows up as June 1 and Dec 1 even thou I selected Aug 1 and Feb 1.

10.22.20-updated language on the FSIA as state wide accepted protection category. I would like to follow up with you on via phone or video conference. MN DNR John Carlson is one that has the numbers on FSIA enrollment. Both the BWSR and DNR have accepted the SFIA as a form of protection due the fact so few people actual get out of the program long term.

03.09.21- Updated Reporting deadlines to Feb 1 and Aug 1

Let me know if there is time to talk through this. The word count so tight in the activities/milestone hard to explain everything. Also in 2015 LCCMR allowed us to do this same program.

Thank you.

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

## Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination</li> </ul>	<p>The only way I could figure out how to fix the dissemination tab was to request an amendment. LCCMR Staff asked that we adjust the language on Dissemination. I was following up on the request.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Melissa</p>	September 14, 2022	Yes	October 14, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List</li> </ul>	The City of Baxter is still in the planning phase for the Whipple Beach Parcel. We have switched focus to the Northland Aroboretum 40 acres for \$ 42,000. I updated the Acquisition and Restoration, Parcel List. Importance: 40 ac. of rare, Jack Pine, and Oak Savanna enhancement as part of the more giant 583-acre Northland Arboretum habitat mosaic adjacent to 40 acres that have previously been successfully restored to savanna.	December 7, 2022	Yes	December 16, 2022
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> </ul>	We have additional landowners that want forest stewardship plans. We have not spent all of the cost-share funds. The switch will allow us to continue offering landowners additional forest stewardship plans and cost-share funds.	May 24, 2023	Yes	June 22, 2023
4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List</li> </ul>	Activity 1: We had two projects that the landowner no longer wanted to proceed with. We have one new restoration opportunity with the City of Baxter. We updated the parcel information to be currently within the number 8. Acquisition and Restoration. We changed the two parcels that no longer will proceed with a	August 1, 2023	Yes	August 24, 2023

			project to no longer for consideration. We added the City of Baxter to the parcel list.			
5	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Information</li> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Narrative</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Travel and Conferences</li> <li>• Budget - Printing and Publication</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> <li>• Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List</li> </ul>	Activity 1. GRG requests to add Belle Prairie County Park Phase II to the parcel list. Activity 3: The SWCD is requesting a budget amendment to remove \$10,000 from SWCD personnel and add it to FSPs' new budget of \$85,000, and the SWCD Technician's budget of \$70,000. To write an FSP for private landowners, remove \$5,000 and add \$5,000 to 30 BMPs' budget for a new \$90,000.	April 19, 2024	Yes	April 23, 2024
6	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List</li> </ul>	Activity 1. Great River Greening has a new parcel to add to the restoration list: 124 acres of forest land within the Pillsbury State Forest. This work aims to release oak and pine tree species from aspen and other competition so that the forest resources in this area retain species diversity and mast production for wildlife.	May 21, 2024	Yes	June 25, 2024
7	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2025; Governor Approved on 04/15/2024	The change is needed due to partners backing out of projects, the 2020 and 2023 drought, the inability to hire staff to do the work, and other factors out of the control of Great River Greening, The Nature Conservancy, and Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District.	November 8, 2023	Yes	May 21, 2024
8	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Activities and Milestones</li> <li>• Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List</li> </ul>	The acreage amounts for the Great River Greening projects on the parcel list have changed. I also needed to add updated milestones that match the grant extension deadline of June 30, 2025.	July 25, 2024	Yes	July 30, 2024
9	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> </ul>	Activity 3: The SWCD requests a budget amendment to remove \$10,000 from SWCD personnel and add it to the new Forest Stewardship plan, increasing the	August 5, 2024	Yes	August 20, 2024

			<p>budget to \$95,000 and decreasing the SWCD Technician's budget to \$60,000. More interested landowners want forest stewardship plans in Camp Ripley that meet the program goals and guidelines.</p>			
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# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update August 14, 2025

**Date Submitted:** January 14, 2026

**Date Approved:** January 15, 2026

### Overall Update

This project has built a sustainable inter-agency private and public Camp Ripley landscape forest restoration program, which includes completing the following since the last status update:

- Prescribed Fire completed in fall 2024

- Habitat Restoration continued to work on 55 acres of habitat restoration and completed restoration on the 55 acres.

- Forest Management Plans: eight landowners completed 1,189 acres and completed restoration on four acres of public land.

We have partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Great River Greening (GRG), and private forest consultant plan writers to complete the above progress toward our project goals.

### Activity 1

GRG worked on 95 acres across five project locations, as detailed in the acquisition and restoration table. See summary of the work completed at each site below:

Pillsbury State Forest-work completed 2024, 48 acres; no additional work was completed due to the new prevailing wage requirements.

Jack Pine Savanna at Mississippi Overlook Park-8 acres completed, and an additional 5 acres is continuing to be worked on with Great River Greening and the City of Baxter. Developed a burn plan, but was not able to complete it due to the hot spring. Completed final spot spraying of invasives along the trail system.

Ruffed Grouse Management Area (N and S units combined): 28 acres were completed, with monitoring, sub-contractor watering, and copse cage improvements occurring during this period.

Pillager Point- six acres was completed. A spring 2025 prescribed burn on the riparian oak savanna was completed, as did inter-seeding and inter-plugging with Pillager High School students. We will remain active at the site through 8.31.25 thanks to matching funds from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Belle Prairie County Parks, 13 acres, completed winter forestry, buckthorn mowing, and tree thinning. Continue to remain active on the site with Outdoor Heritage Funds.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments for the grant period:

- 17 burns for a total of 975 acres

- 10 burn plans completed

In addition to burning completed through this grant, crews were able to utilize other federal and private funding sources to accomplish work during the same period of this grant, doing invasive species treatments and timber stand



improvement work on other sites within the Sentinel Landscape. See attached report for additional details.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### **Activity 3**

This reporting period, we completed nine forest stewardship plans for 1,010 acres and 44 acres of restoration for two projects. We closed out the two projects. Cumulatively, we have completed 79 forest stewardship plans for 10,848 acres and 203 acres of restoration with 11 private landowners and two public landowners. See attached final report with pictures, locations, and information on forest stewardship plans and projects.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### **Dissemination**

We have discussed projects at the Crow Wing SWCD Board Meeting, City Council Meetings, and SWCD Staff Meetings.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update February 1, 2025

**Date Submitted:** February 3, 2025

**Date Approved:** February 10, 2025

### Overall Update

Ninety-five acres have been managed for habitat by GRG. 16 volunteers assisted with GRG projects. One forest stewardship plan was written and paid out during this reporting period for 110 acres. We currently have eight additional landowners in the queue to complete their forest stewardship plan for 1189 acres. We completed three best management practices for 32 acres.

### Activity 1

GRG worked on 95 acres and was managed for invasives, thinning and release work of select trees, planting on public lands, and pollinator work by mowing, with 16 volunteers participating in the planting and caging plants. An additional 20 acres have been put on hold due to a lack of frost conditions to manage the habitat.

### Activity 2

New sites were scouted, and burn plans are in progress for more burns either this fall or next spring burn season, as conditions will allow.

17 burns for a total of 975 acres

10 burn plans in either completed or draft status

### Activity 3

Accumatively, we have completed 70 forest stewardship plans for 9,837.65 and are working with the eight landowners to complete the forest stewardship plans on their property. We have completed 10 best management practices for 158 acres and are working with two landowners to close out their best management practices projects in the next reporting period.

### Dissemination

We have discussed projects at the Crow Wing SWCD Board Meeting, City Council Meetings, and SWCD Staff Meetings. We hosted a Fall tour to showcase our projects in the area. See link to the video created for the tour:

<https://youtu.be/GdZRPnr4uTc?si=urMs1AIPMtRctMxY>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/baxter-good-samaritan>

Funding for the planting was allocated toward this LCCMR grant, and LCCMR funds to the Mississippi River Headwaters to purchase this property.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update August 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** July 25, 2024

**Date Approved:** July 30, 2024

### Overall Update

The Crow Wing SWCD partnered with Great River Greening (SWCD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to do the following activities and set goals:

Activity 1: GRG will restore and enhance 0.4 miles of shoreline and 90 acres of forest and other habitat on public land. GRG is working with five public entities to restore 191 acres through Jack Pine thinning, pollinator habitat, Oak and Pine tree release, and invasive species management.

Activity 2: TNC will complete prescribed fire on public or easement lands 550 acres. During this reporting period, five burns for 198 acres. To date, 17 burns for 975 acres and 10 burn plans for new burns have been developed.

Activity 3: SWCD will partner with private landowners to develop 65 forest stewardship plans and 20 best management practice plans for private landowners. During this reporting period, the private forest stewardship plan writers completed 12 plans for 838 acres. During this reporting period, the SWCD developed five best management practices plans and landowner contracts and installed two best management practices for eight acres. To date, ten best management practices have been completed for 133 acres. The SWCD completed the required reporting, invoices, and grant tracking.

### Activity 1

GRG is currently working on five restoration projects for 191 acres:

1. Jack Pine Savanna at Mississippi River Overlook Park—13 Ac. A second wave of thinning was conducted, and Inter-seeding is underway.
2. Ruffed Grouse Management Area—28 acres. Volunteers planted 39 shrubs to replace drought-killed shrubs in the N unit, with the Pillager High School class incorporating biochar as a soil amendment. Caging for additional >200 shrubs at the South unit has been designed, fabricated, and installed on the remaining acreage at RGMA South.
3. Pillager Point—6 acre. In February and March 2024, non-native invasive shrub removal continued using the waste wood for Biochar production, which led to the incorporation of ~ 2 cu yds of biochar into the disturbed soil remaining after the debris removal by the City, contractor, and volunteers. This bare soil area was bermed with native prairie seed and cover crops and erosion control, with volunteer plugging of 500 wildflowers and 50 pollinator shrubs.
4. Belle Prairie County Park—prorated 20 acres. The state-required shovel test archaeological survey has been contracted with OHF funds.
5. Pillsbury State Forest/Stump Lake AMA oak and pine release—124 acres—is underway.

### Activity 2

During this period, TNC hired a prescribed burn crew for the spring fire season. This winter was abnormally dry, with snow largely absent from the landscape throughout most of the Jan-March window. Thus, spring fire season had early burning restrictions and started windy. However, the trend quickly changed, as abundant rains eliminated any drought from winter within a short period, and then burning needed to be squeezed between rain events. This spring, TNC staff completed five burns for 198 acres. TNC staff scouted out new sites, and burn plans are in progress for more burns either this fall or next spring burn season, as conditions will allow.

Cumulative accomplishments to date

17 burns for a total of 975 acres

10 burn plans in either completed or draft status

### **Activity 3**

The Crow Wing SWCD partnered with private forestry consultants to write and develop 12 MN DNR-approved forest stewardship plans for 838 acres within the priority forest watersheds. To date, we have completed 69 MN DNR-approved plans for 9,730 acres. To date, 15 landowners have enrolled their property into the Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act for 1,932 acres. The Crow Wing SWCD partnered with an additional five landowners to develop five best management practices plans and contracts with the landowner for 40 acres of best management practices, including conservation cover pollinator habitat, brush management, and invasive species control and management of buckthorn. Two of the five landowners completed their practices in June 2024. We anticipate that other projects will be completed in the fall of 2024. The SWCD and landowners have completed ten projects for 133 acres. The SWCD has planned inspections for past projects and visited projects such as the Baxter Elementary School to ensure the projects are functioning correctly.

The Crow Wing SWCD staff have tracked sub-award grant spending, the SWCD Projects, and staff time. All files and payments are up to date.

### **Dissemination**

The Crow Wing SWCD staff has been working on getting signs printed for conservation habitat projects and developing a Facebook and e-mail newsletter on past successful projects. The Crow Wing SWCD developed and produced an annual report showing examples of the projects and programs spent under this grant. On March 22, 2024, the Crow Wing SWCD hosted a Landowner Event Meeting that shared projects and programs related to this grant. Please see the attachments on the Annual Report, page 7.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update February 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** March 15, 2024

**Date Approved:** April 23, 2024

### Overall Update

This project has built a sustainable inter-agency private and public Camp Ripley landscape forest restoration program, which includes completing the following :

- Prescribed Fire on 770 acres and ten burn plans developed

- Habitat Restoration 45 acres

- Forest Management Plans 60 for 9,285 acres and completed 22 forest best management practices for \$26,107 cost share dollars spent.

We have partnered with The Nature Conservancy, Great River Greening, and private forest consultant plan writers to complete the above progress to our project goals.

The SWCD is requesting a budget amendment as the following:

Under SWCD Personnel, we had budgeted \$80,000. We request that \$10,000 be removed from SWCD personnel and added \$10,000 to Activity 3. 30 Landowners will complete BMPs. Under Activity 3: To write forest stewardship plans for private landowners, remove \$5,000 and add it to Activity 3. 30 Landowners will complete BMPs for a new budget of \$90,000. Forest Stewardship Plans' new budget is \$85,000, and the SWCD Technician's budget is \$ 70,000.

The GRG completed some parcel amendments, added parcels, and updated parcels that are no longer included in their project scope of work due to circumstances outside their control.

### Activity 1

Great River Greening (GRG) requests to add Belle Prairie County Park, Phase 2, as an important site ecologically, culturally, and for recreation. A prorated 30 acres of the 42 acres of quality forest and wetland enhancement in this phase, Mississippi River (1000 ft), will be enhanced via non-native invasive woody control and tree thinning.

At Ruffed Grouse Management Area, South Unit, we planted over 400 wildlife shrubs, caged and mulched, including engaging volunteers using a federal match, in fall 2023. Invasive woody removal continued at Pillager Point, including biochar production and city in-kind work on clearing the compost and sand, and made significant progress. In addition, we raised a private match from The Pentair Foundation to assist with removing the concrete rubble in late winter 2024 and following up with prairie restoration. At Mississippi River Overlook Park, the first wave of jack pine thinning occurred, with the City of Baxter doing in-kind hauling services. At Belle Prairie County Park phase II, the initial archaeology survey was completed, identifying the site as significant before the winter woody invasive and tree thinning contracted to be this 'winter.' Goat browsing was conducted on adjacent phase I, with private funds.

### Activity 2

The TNC completed 770 acres of prescribed burns with the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. We have already met the acre deliverable and, along the way, built partnerships and momentum with this work, and we intend to continue doing this work beyond June 30, 2024. TNC has leveraged this money by more than 1:1 with federal funds and, in doing so, has built a program that we hope can last. Still, presently, we have delivered the work under budget and would like the opportunity to build on that momentum. TNC hired a prescribed burn crew for the fall fire season during this period. Fall fire season was abnormally dry early and quite wet late. Only two burns were completed with 22 acres, but firebreaks

were installed, and sites were prepared for the spring burn season. Burn plans are in progress for the spring burn season.

### **Activity 3**

The SWCD requested a budget amendment.

Removed \$10,000 from District Technician (added it to the BMP) (\$70,000)

Removed \$5,000 from Forest Stewardship Plans (added to the BMP) (\$85,000)

Added \$15,000 to BMPs (\$90,000)

We have more projects that are earmarked for 2024 than funding available. We completed a budget amendment to ensure we could continue to fund forest stewardship plans and have additional dollars for four encumbered projects. The BMPs are the most effective way to complete conservation.

The SWCD partnered with private landowners, private forest consultants, and agencies to complete the following:

Forest Stewardship Plans

30 agreements received (\$42,388 allocated for cost share)

22 forest stewardship plans are completed for a total of \$26,107 cost share dollars spent

5,217 acres for all 30 agreements

BMPs

Four projects written for landowners, including the City of Baxter Whiskey Creek Planting project, approximately \$50,000 +

Six projects were completed and paid out in 2023 for \$9,207.75 at a 50 percent cost share.

Practices include Prescribed grazing, brush management, tree-shrub establishment, site prep, conservation cover, forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, and firebreak.

\$55,000 is encumbered for the spring install.

### **Dissemination**

We have effectively worked with the consultant plan writers. They continue to advertise this program for us. We have not completed any direct mailing during this period. We continue to include the ENTFF logo on the SWCD annual report and SWCD communication items. The SWCD also requests that TNC and Great River Greening include the ENTFF Logo on their projects. Crow Wing SWCD Annual Report will be available soon, including ENTFF-funded projects.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update August 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** August 1, 2023

**Date Approved:** August 24, 2023

### Overall Update

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CW SWCD) has partnered with TNC, Great River Greening (GRG), Todd, Morrison, and Cass SWCDs and completed the following.

- 31 forest stewardship plans (FSPs) and six best management practices (BMPs) working with landowners. 1 BMP is completed.
- Restore and enhance 45 acres of public land. GRG worked with the City of Baxter, the City of Pillager, and Ruffed Grouse Management Areas 1 and 2 at Camp Ripley. Completed a lot of project planning. Work is scheduled for fall 2023 and Spring 2024.
- Implement prescribed fire on approximately 550 acres of protected forest lands.

### Activity 1

Dept of Military Affairs Ruffed Grouse Management Area 1 & 2

North Unit:

Maintained and monitored fall 2022 plantings. The low survival rate of planted shrubs due to drought. Planning a re-planting, fall 2023 and spring 2024, using revised techniques and reduced species list based on adaptive management. 6 acres.

South Unit:

Planning a wildlife shrub planting, copse style, in the lower quality grassland areas to increase habitat value for ruffed grouse and other wildlife species. Anticipating over 1000 shrubs protectors to be installed in fall 2023 and spring 2024. 20 acres.

Pillager Point, City of Pillager – continued with woody encroachment removal and clean up. Conducted first burn on riparian savanna following Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) techniques (low intensity, patchy burn), which has received a strong response from prairie species. We are developing a contract for the fall 2023 round of sustained woody encroachment removal. 6 acres.

Mississippi River Overlook Park, City of Baxter – approaching August signing of an agreement to proceed with the enhancement of priority areas in this large park, including thinning of jack pine to savanna density; rapid response to the early establishment of scattered low-density buckthorn; and control of spotted knapweed along a trail. 13 acres.

### Activity 2

In the spring of 2023, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) completed six prescribed fire burns for Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape in high-priority areas of 555 Acres. TNC crews also worked on preparing other sites for prescribed fire projects. TNC crews are working on additional burn plans within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape for fall 2023 and Spring 2024. TNC has met the 550-acre prescribed fire goal for Activity 2, Enhancement of public lands and private easements with prescribed fire. TNC will continue the work described in Activity 2.

### Activity 3

The Crow Wing SWCD worked with private consultants and landowners to develop 16 of the 65 FSP goals that cover 1,927 acres.

Crow Wing SWCD is working with private landowners to install 9 of the 20 BMP goals for 91 acres, with one more currently being planned.

**Dissemination**

The private consultants have done a great job of communicating our program. We currently have not done any mailing or advertisement. Word of mouth is working. The Crow Wing SWCD has leveraged the Camp Ripley Sentiental Landscape Partnership to help with communication and landowner interactions. The Crow Wing SWCD did attend the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape national tour and meeting. We talked with over 50 people at the event about this program and how this program aided the federally designated sentinel landscape.



# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update February 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** February 3, 2023

**Date Approved:** February 9, 2023

### Overall Update

Project Outcome progress:

1. GRG is focusing on forest restoration and enhancement of public lands with partners within the project focus area. The Northland Arboretum board decided to not go forward with the project proposed by GRG, and the DMA Bridge Site project has been delayed for an estimated 1-2 years. Discussions with the City of Baxter are continuing regarding potential projects on Mississippi River Overlook Park and Whipple Beach Park. GRG will be focusing on developing the Ripley Esker SNA project next.

2. TNC has worked towards planning to implement prescribed fire on fire-dependent forested acres of public and conservation easement lands within the project focus area. Staff turnover and a season that was too dry in 2021, followed by a very wet year in 2022 resulted in challenges to implement prescribed fire.

3. CW SWCD and private consultants have developed 32 FSPs with private landowners and have had landowners enroll into SFIA or county 2c to ensure forest and habitat protection. CW SWCD has worked with landowners towards implementing 7 BMPs. Outreach for this project was conducted by mailing 126 landowners and interacting with over 3,000 people at outreach events.

### Activity 1

GRG met with the City of Baxter, Northland Arboretum and the Department of Military Affairs (Camp Ripley) to develop projects.

GRG developed a project at Pillager Point and has worked with 27 volunteers including 25 Pillager High School students for woody invasive control, prairie plug planting, and garbage cleanup.

GRG is also working on a RGMA adjacent to Camp Ripley where they 100 volunteers to plant mast bearing shrubs and butterfly milkweed. A planting event with Pillager High School has been planned for the RGMA site for the fall of 2022.

In total, GRG has engaged 127 volunteers out of the 55 volunteer goal.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 2

TNC is in the planning process to meet prescribed fire goals. They are currently hiring personnel to work on prescribed burns and finalizing burn plans.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 3

Crow Wing SWCD conducted an outreach mailing to 126 landowners with 40+ acres in August of 2022 (see attachment). Crow Wing SWCD also presented program opportunities to approximately 3,104 individuals at the Crow Wing County Fair and 90 individuals at the Harvest Dinner event.

Crow Wing SWCD worked with private consultants and landowners to develop 32 of the 65 FSP goal, that cover 4,404

acres.

Crow Wing SWCD is working with private landowners with the installation of 7 of the 20 BMP goal, with 2 more currently being planned.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### **Dissemination**

The partnership has followed ENTRF Acknowledgement guidelines and utilized the logo in an outreach brochure mailed to 126 landowners within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, made available at the Harvest Dinner outreach event in Sylvan Township attended by 90 people, and made available at the SWCD booth at the Crow Wing County Fair where 3,104 people interacted with the booth.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update August 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** September 14, 2022

**Date Approved:** October 14, 2022

### Overall Update

Project Outcome progress:

1. GRG is focusing on forest restoration and enhancement of public lands with 3 partners within the project focus area.
2. TNC has worked towards planning to implement prescribed fire on fire-dependent forested acres of public and conservation easement lands within the project focus area.
3. CW SWCD and private consultants have developed 27 FSPs with private landowners and have had landowners enroll into SFIA or county 2c to ensure forest and habitat protection. CW SWCD has worked with landowners towards implementing 7 BMPs.

### Activity 1

GRG met with the City of Pillager, the City of Baxter, and the Department of Military Affairs (Camp Ripley) to develop projects.

GRG developed a project at Pillager Point and has worked with 27 volunteers including 25 Pillager High School students for woody invasive control, prairie plug planting, and garbage cleanup.

GRG is also working on a RGMA adjacent to Camp Ripley where they utilized volunteers to plant mast bearing shrubs. A planting event with Pillager High School has been planned for the RGMA site for the fall of 2022.

### Activity 2

TNC has been able to hire a Burn Boss, and is in the planning process to meet prescribed fire goals.

### Activity 3

Crow Wing SWCD conducted an outreach mailing to 148 landowners with 40+ acres in March of 2022 (see attachment). Crow Wing SWCD also presented program opportunities to approximately 125 landowners at the Todd SWCD Feedlot Meeting.

Crow Wing SWCD worked with private consultants and landowners to develop 27 FSPs, that cover 3,852 acres. Crow Wing SWCD is working with private landowners with the installation of 4 BMPs, with 3 more currently being planned.

### Dissemination

The partnership has followed ENTRF Acknowledgement guidelines and utilized the logo in all print, web, and social media materials related to our projects.