

FINAL REPORT

3d1

LCMR Proposal 2005 – Habitat Corridors Partnership Phase III 3d

I. PROJECT TITLE: Wetlands Reserve Program
Project Manager: Roger Pederson (DU) & Tim Koehler (USDA-NRCS)
Affiliation: Ducks Unlimited and USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Total Biennial Project Budget (LCMR Request): \$350,000

II. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS: By adding outreach and engineering personnel to the existing NRCS capacity, LCMR funds help target, implement, and expand the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) by building “demand” for WRP contracts within Minnesota. The federal WRP is one of the nation’s most successful programs for restoring wetlands. The LCMR/DU/NRCS partnership complements existing wetland protection programs and attracts additional federal WRP and NAWCA funding.

Result 3: Conservation Easement Programs

Description: Ducks Unlimited (DU) is requesting \$350,000 from LCMR in FY2006-07 to help restore, acquire, and perpetually protect 5,000 acres of wetlands, shallow lakes and associated upland complexes for wildlife in key prairie and prairie transition areas of Minnesota as designated by LCMR Corridor Areas. This request will be matched with an estimated \$5 million in federal sources as part of the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Under a current LCMR Corridors grant, five (5) WRP contract positions have been employed to assist NRCS in delivering the federal Wetlands Reserve Program in Corridor Areas. Funding from this proposal will be used to continue the existing positions for 1 additional year. To date, LCMR funds have leveraged over \$30 million in federal funds to restore 30,000 acres in Minnesota.

Proposed Budget for Result 3d	LCMR Budget	\$ 350,000
	Other Funds	\$5,000,000
	Total Budget	\$5,350,000

Pers.*	Acq.	Equip. **	Total
\$340,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$350,000

*\$34,000 in personnel for direct costs accrued by Project Manager and/or DU administrative support personnel for WRP program coordination. CONTRACT PERSONNEL costs are costs to provide 5 FTEs of wetland restoration specialist and engineering support

** EQUIPMENT to be purchased and donated to NRCS will include: ATV & ATV trailer, Trimble total station with software and download hardware, and laser level.

Proposed Sources of Other Funds Budget for Result 3d: Other funds of \$5,000,000 will come from the federal Wetlands Reserve Program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

III. BUDGET HISTORY

2001 LCMR for DU/NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program: \$ 350,000

2003 LCMR for DU/NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program: \$465,100

04e 3d

Attachment A, August 2004

Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors - Wetland Reserve Program (3d part 1).

Project Number: CH01

LCMR Recommended Funding: \$350,000

Attachment A Deliverable Products and Related Budget

**2003 LCMR
Project Biennial Budget**

		Result 1 Budget:	Result 1 Previously Invoiced	Result 1 Uninvoiced Expense	Result 1 Balance:	PROJECT TOTAL:		
Budget Item (Title of Result)						BUDGET TOTAL:	CURRENT EXPENSE TOTAL:	BALANCE TOTAL:
Wages, salaries & benefits	Detail							
DU Professional Staff (project supervisor, biologists, engineers, etc)		\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00
Wages subtotal		\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 34,000.00
Contracts								
Contract WRP Technicians	5 FTEs	\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00	\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00
Contracts Subtotal		\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00	\$ 281,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 281,000.00
Travel, field supplies, and Misc costs		\$ 25,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 25,000.00
Equipment	ATV, trailer, survey equip	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 10,000.00
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 350,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 350,000.00

Date of Report: June 30, 2004
LCMR Work Program Final Report

Date of Workprogram Approval: May 6, 2003 (amended 7/11/03, 7/22/03, 9/29/03, 5/3/04, 5/17/04 & 6/3/04)

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2004

- I. Project Title:** CH-01 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors, Part 3d1 & 3d2 - Wetlands Reserve Program, Project Areas 1 (Aspen Parklands), 3 (Border Prairie), 6 (Upper Minnesota River), 7 (Alexandria Moraine), 9 (Des Moines River Valley), and 10 (Southern Lakes)

This project has 2 parts. Part 1 (3d1) includes the expenditure of Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars to contract with WRP technicians and purchase equipment and is administered by Ducks Unlimited (DU). Part 2 (3d2) is the accomplishment component of this project, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and includes reporting on matching dollars and total acres enrolled. This cover page is used to acknowledge and collate the 2 separate reporting processes and reports appended here.

Project Manager, 3d1: Roger Pederson
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Project Manager, 3d2: Tim Koehler
Affiliation: United States Department of
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E-Mail: Tim.Koehler@mn.usda.gov

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$350,000 (the original project budget was \$350,000; on March 14, 2003, \$210,000 was transferred to DU as the new project sponsor). This report only covers the \$210,000 in funds transferred to DU. This work program required a change in project administrator.

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Spent to date	Balance
2003	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$-0-
2004	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$-0-
Total	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$-0-

LEGAL CITATION: ML. 2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 4(e)
Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors.

Appropriation Language: \$5,873,000 the first year and \$5,872,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Forest Service to restore and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. \$352,000 is for program coordination, corridor identification, and mapping. \$3,343,000 is for restoration and management activities in wildlife management areas, wetland habitat, lakes, wild rice beds, grasslands, and fisheries habitat. \$2,650,000 is for conservation easement programs on riparian areas, big woods forests, native prairies, and wetlands. \$5,400,000 is for habitat acquisition activities on prairies, riparian areas, and other fish and wildlife habitat corridors. As part of the required work program, criteria and priorities for planned acquisition and restoration activities must be submitted to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for review and approval. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Any land acquired in fee title by the Commissioner of Natural Resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may so designate any lands acquired in less than fee title.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

During the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant project period (Phase I), over 22,479 habitat acres (including 7,646 wetland acres) were restored and protected via perpetual easements in 6 priority Habitat Corridor Partnership areas (Project Areas 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, & 10). Federal matching funds (for easement and habitat restoration costs) totaled \$29,477,155. Given federal staffing restrictions and NRCS workloads, contract tech support (via financial support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund) was absolutely critical to increasing the amount of acres enrolled and restored in Minnesota's Wetlands Reserve Program. Increased WRP applications enabled Minnesota to rank second nationally in FY03 in securing federal funding for WRP.

Under this project, DU used Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars to hire and supervise five contract technicians in four locations (Crookston, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Albert Lea) to expand the federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) implementation in various Habitat Corridor Partnership project areas. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars was also used to purchase necessary field equipment (ATVs, survey equipment, etc.,) for contract techs. This equipment has been donated to the NRCS to be used exclusively on the WRP for the useful life of the equipment.

WRP offers landowners the opportunity to take marginal lands out of ag production and restore them to their natural state. The landowner is paid the agricultural value for the property and up to 100% cost share for restoration activities. Once an easement is recorded, the landowner has one year to start the restoration and three years from recording to complete the restoration.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Wetland Reserve Program Technical Assistance
LCMR Budget: \$210,000; LCMR Spent: \$210,000; Balance: \$-0-

Result 1: DU provided technical and administrative assistance to NRCS field offices and landowners. DU promoted the WRP program in conjunction with other LCMR partners in Project Areas #1, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 and protected (via perpetual easements) and restored important wetlands habitats within targeted HCP corridors. DU contract technicians have implemented all aspects of the WRP program, and DU provided coordinating administrative support.

Result 1 – Budget:

Contract Personnel: \$169,161.74 – LCMR funds

Contract Technicians =	\$152,186.74
Contractor Charges =	\$ 16,000.00
Contractor Charges (out-state travel)	\$ 975.00
Subtotal	\$169,161.74

DU provided contract technicians and administrative support for these positions. NRCS provided vehicles, office space and supplies, limited equipment, and training. Limited costs for travel and misc. charges (cell phone charges, field supplies, printing, etc.) were included in the Contract Technician budget line. A contractor was used to accomplish wetland restoration work that could not be conducted by the wetland technicians alone. The contractor provided specific products (topo survey, wetland water control structure or dike design, etc.) deemed necessary for selected WRP restoration sites. The contractor was selected in consultation with MN NRCS from MN NRCS' list (approved per federal A/E procurement requirements) for Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts.

Personnel/Administrative = \$13,000.00 – LCMR Funds

Subtotal	= \$	13,000.00
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Travel (In-State) = \$116.16 – LCMR Funds

Subtotal	= \$	116.16
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Equipment = \$27,100.27 – LCMR Funds

Subtotal	= \$	27,100.27
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Note : Equipment purchased under the prior project administrator is accounted for and held by NRCS and will continue to be used for this project throughout its useful life. Equipment purchased while this project was administered by DU is listed in Attachment A1. NRCS has agreed to accept all equipment and include as part of their inventory and only use the equipment for purposes of this agreement throughout the equipment's useful life.

Supplies and miscellaneous = \$621.83 – LCMR Funds
Subtotal = \$ 621.83

Result 1 Status: June 30, 2004 – Five WRP Technicians were hired and placed in NRCS offices. NRCS and DU provided ongoing training for the WRP Technicians as necessary. The technicians worked on new and existing WRP applications or projects within the habitat corridor areas they were assigned. Currently, the five WRP technicians switched to LCMR HCP WRP 3d1 Phase II funding on 1 July 2004 to continue to provide technical assistance to NRCS to implement the WRP program in HCP Corridor Areas. Equipment was purchased for the Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Albert Lea positions from funding from this project in the following manner: 1 Trimble Recon Controller for Albert Lea, 2 Trimble LL600 Laser Levels for Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls, 1 GPS Backpack unit for Fergus Falls, 2 digital cameras for Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes, 2 Honda ATVs for Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes, 1 notebook computer for the Detroit Lakes position and ATV ramps and winches for the Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls position. Spectra Laser Level and associated field survey equipment for the Crookston position. NRCS has acknowledged donation of this equipment and these items are now on NRCS inventory. WRP is currently authorized until at least 2008 by the federal Farm Bill; technicians will be needed until that time, but this phase of the project ended on June 30, 2004.

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

	Spent	Balance
All Results: Contract Personnel = \$ 152,186.74	\$152,186.74	\$ -0-
All Results: Contractor Charges= \$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -0-
All Results: Contractor (out state trvl) =\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -0-
All Results: Personnel/Admin = \$ 13,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -0-
All Results: In-State Travel = \$ 116.16	\$ 116.16	\$ -0-
All Results: Equipment = \$ 27,100.27	\$ 27,100.27	\$ -0-
All Results: Supplies/Misc. = \$ 621.83	\$ 621.83	\$ -0-
TOTAL = \$ 210,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$ -0-

TOTAL BUDGET: \$210,000.00; Total Spent = \$210,000.00; Balance = \$ -0-.

See: ATTACHMENT A for complete budget details

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

DU has a national interest in promoting the WRP program, especially in the Great Plains Region. Implementation of the federal Farm Bill is a key component to DU's habitat efforts.

A. Past Spending: Since 2000, DU has partnered with NRCS in several ways to promote and implement WRP through a partnership agreement. DU has employed 3 staff to promote and implement WRP in southcentral, westcentral and northwest Minnesota. DU has assisted in the design and construction of several large projects, and have helped secure several easements by providing incentive payments to landowners. In total, DU has contributed more than \$250,000 towards implementation of WRP in Minnesota since 2000.

B. Current and Future Spending: DU currently has 2.5 FTE directly involved in delivering WRP; we also have another contract technician (funded with Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund dollars) in Appleton, MN who assists with Farm Bill program delivery. Current annual costs to DU for this program is approximately \$150,000. We expect to continue this effort, leverage additional dollars, and expand our role in delivering WRP to maximize the conservation of private lands habitat. Additionally, DU and NRCS entered into a contribution agreement that matched Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars on a 1:1 basis with Farm Bill technical assistance funds from NRCS. With this additional funding, we will provide even more technical assistance for WRP implementation.

C. Project Partners: For this workprogram, the principal partners are DU and NRCS. All staff worked with other partners (e.g., FWS, DNR, etc.) to maximize utilization of the WRP program.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Both Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service held at least bi-yearly staff meetings where WRP accomplishments (supported by funding from the Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund) were presented. At least once a year, NRCS held a WRP training session and workshop where administration protocols and restoration techniques were discussed and adjustments as necessary were made to field procedures. Both Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have highlighted Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund financial support to Minnesota's WRP in press releases, news letters and field events. Some of the more significant field events included an Earth Day celebration at the Glacial Ridge project in NW Minnesota. NRCS Chief Bruce Knight attended the event. A national DU/NRCS MOU signing occurred on July 27, 2004 on a WRP site in Steele County. State Senator Dennis Frederickson, NRCS Chief Bruce Knight, DU Executive Vice President Don Young, and James Connaughton (Chairman of President Bush's Council on Environmental Quality) attended and provided remarks.

News of the project and individual accomplishments will be disseminated by periodic news releases from partners included in the LCMR project, and NRCS/SWCD field offices. Information about the corridor project and WRP progress will be incorporated into the NRCS WRP web page located at the following address: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/ecs/wrp/>

VIII. LOCATION:

The majority of the time spent by the personnel hired through the LCMR project will be in Project Areas 1, 3, and 10, but some projects are also likely in Project Areas #6, #7, and #9.

Attachment A. Final Work Program Budget, June 30, 2004

Project Title: Wetlands Reserve Program Technical Assistance (part 3d1 of CH-01) LCMR

Recommended Funding: \$210,000

2001 LCMR Project Biennial Budget		Result 1 Budget:	Result 1 Spent:	Result 1 Balance:	PROJECT TOTAL:		
Budget Item (WRP Technical Assistance, part 3d1 of CH-01)					BUDGET TOTAL:	TOTAL SPENT TO DATE:	BALANCE TOTAL:
Wages, salaries & benefits	Detail						
DU Professional Staff (project supervisors, biologists, etc)		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-
Wages subtotal		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -0-
Contracts							
Contract WRP Technician		\$ 152,186.74	\$ 152,186.74	\$ -0-	\$ 152,186.74	\$ 152,186.74	\$ -0-
Contractor Charges		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -0-
Contractor out state travel		\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -0-	\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ -0-
Contracts Subtotal		\$ 169,161.74	\$ 169,161.74	\$ -0-	\$ 169,161.74	\$ 169,161.74	\$ -0-
Travel in State		\$ 116.16	\$ 116.16	\$ -0-	\$ 116.16	\$ 116.16	\$ -0-
Equipment	ATV, laser level, computer	\$ 27,100.27	\$ 27,100.27	\$ -0-	\$ 27,100.27	\$ 27,100.27	\$ -0-
Supplies and Miscellaneous		\$ 621.83	\$ 621.83	\$ -0-	\$ 621.83	\$ 621.83	\$ -0-
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 210,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ -0-	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ -0-

ATTACHMENT A1 - (rev. 6/30/04)

Detail of Equipment for WRP techs (Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Crookston, and Albert Lea positions)

Equipment List	Estimated Price	Units	Total	Useful life
Trimble Recon Controller	\$2,376.25	1	\$ 2,376.25	4 yr
Notebook computer	2,248.24	1	2,248.24	4 yr
Trimble LL600 package	1,756.12	2	3,512.24	5 yr
Spectra Laser	1,580.00	1	1,580.00	5 yr
Configuration I GPS	1,379.77	2	2,759.54	5 yr
Digital cameras	569.75	2	1,139.50	4 yr
Honda ATV Rancher	5,875.25	2	11,750.50	3 yr
ATV ramps and winches	600.00	2	1,200.00	3 yr
Survey Equip Accessories	534.00	sev	534.00	3 yr
Equipment total			\$27,100.27	

Susan Thornton

From: Koehler, Tim - St. Paul, MN [Tim.Koehler@mn.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2004 9:26 AM
To: Susan Thornton; ROGER PEDERSON
Cc: Koehler, Tim - St. Paul, MN
Subject: Final Draft of Phase 1 3d2 Report



lcmr NRCS wrp
12 8-18-04 repo

Susan and Roger:

I have attached my draft final version of the Phase 1 3d2 final report for your review.

Due to numerous challenges I was not able to split the dollars and acres up by county from the records I have. The problem is due to the 1st half was done by Jean Sieben and the 2nd was by me. We did it differently.

I have all of the records, it would have just taken a number of days to separate the data manually by county. My solution was to list the counties that the work was done in and then present the totals for each project area.

I hope this works for everyone.

Let me know.

Take Care and thanks for your review.

Tim Koehler
NRCS

WORK PROGRAM FINAL REPORT

Date of Report: June 30, 2004

Date of Next Status Report: NA

Date of Workprogram Approval: July 24, 2001

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2004

LCMR Work Program 2001

**I. Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors
Wetlands Reserve Program (3d2) Area 1- Aspen Parklands, Area 3-Prairie Borders, Area 6-Upper
Minnesota River, Area 7 – Alexandria Moraine, Area 9-Des Moines River Valley, and Area 10-
Southern Lakes**

This project has 2 parts. Part 1 (3d1) includes the expenditure of Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars to contract with WRP technicians and purchase equipment and is administered by Ducks Unlimited (DU). Part 2 (3d2) is the accomplishment component of this project, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and includes reporting on matching dollars and total acres enrolled. This cover page is used to acknowledge and collate the 2 separate reporting processes and reports appended here

Project Manager, 3d1: Roger Pederson
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Web Address: mnducks.org

Project Manager, 3d2: Tim Koehler
Affiliation: United States Department of
Agriculture – Natural Resources
Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
Mailing Address: USDA-NRCS
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St. Paul, MN 55101
Telephone Number: (651) 602-7857
E-Mail: Tim.Koehler@mn.usda.gov
Fax: (651) 602-7914

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$350,000 - \$ 136,141 spent through the Minnesota Waterfowl Association = **\$213,859** balance transferred to Ducks Unlimited on March 14, 2003.

LEGAL CITATION: ML. 2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 4(e) Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors.

Appropriation Language: \$5,873,000 the first year and \$5,872,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Forest Service to restore and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. \$352,000 is for program coordination, corridor identification, and mapping. \$3,343,000 is for restoration and management activities in wildlife management areas, wetland habitat, lakes, wild rice beds, grasslands, and fisheries habitat. \$2,650,000 is for conservation easement programs on riparian areas, big woods forests, native prairies, and wetlands. \$5,400,000 is for habitat acquisition activities on prairies, riparian areas, and other fish and wildlife habitat corridors. As part of the required work program, criteria and priorities for planned acquisition and restoration activities must be submitted to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for review and approval. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Any land acquired in fee title by the Commissioner of Natural Resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may so designate any lands acquired in less than fee title.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

During the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant project period (Phase I), over 22,479 habitat acres (including 7,646 wetland acres) were restored and protected via perpetual easements in 6 priority Habitat Corridor Partnership areas (Project Areas 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, & 10). Federal matching funds (for easement and habitat restoration costs) totaled \$29,477,155. Given federal staffing restrictions and NRCS workloads, contract tech support (via financial support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund) was absolutely critical to increasing the amount of acres enrolled and restored in Minnesota's Wetlands Reserve Program. Increased WRP applications enabled Minnesota to rank second nationally in FY03 in securing federal funding for WRP.

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Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars was also used to purchase necessary field equipment (ATVs, survey equipment, etc.) for contract techs. This equipment has been donated to the NRCS to be used exclusively on the WRP for the useful life of the equipment.

WRP offers landowners the opportunity to take marginal lands out of agricultural production and restore them to their natural state. The landowner is paid the agricultural value for the property and up to 100% cost share for restoration activities. Once an easement is recorded, the landowner has one year to start the restoration and three years from recording to complete the restoration.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Funds received by LCMR were initially administered by The Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA). On March 14, 2003 DU became the recipient of the agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to administer the LCMR funds for the WRP. DU provided the administrative functions necessary to enter into contracts with qualified people to provide technical assistance to the WRP. The NRCS provided office space, vehicles and limited equipment needed for the contract technicians to perform their assigned duties. The NRCS and DU provided training and technical support to the contract technicians. The contract technicians are housed in project areas 1, 3

and 10 but were available to assist in other project areas as needed. NRCS set primary workload priorities for the contract technicians.

U reported on expenditures associated with the administration of the contract technicians while NRCS reported on WRP easement and restoration accomplishments. The unfunded applications NRCS has on file for WRP are a direct result of part of the contract technician's work. Restoration activities within these corridors are also direct results of these contract technicians' efforts.

NRCS has far exceeded its original commitment of \$4 million to place easements on 4,000 acres of land within the eleven designated Project Areas. Our efforts have focused on Project Areas #1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10. NRCS WRP funds may be spent in all Project Areas. The total for all Project Areas includes **\$29,477,155** of WRP funds expended on **22,479 acres** of easements and **7,646 acres** of wetland and upland habitat restored.

Result 1: Aspen Parklands Project Area #1

\$9,710,147 of WRP funds were expended in this project area including **10,602 acres** of easements and **4536 acres** restored to wetland and upland habitat. These activities were performed entirely in **Polk County**, Minnesota.

The corridor that was focused on was The Glacial Ridge Project area, east of Crookston. WRP easements and restoration activities were with The Nature Conservancy and numerous private landowners. This approximately 40,000 acre project is planned to become a USFWS designated National Wildlife Refuge in the future.

Result 2: Border Prairie Project Area #3

\$8,630,881 of WRP funds were expended in this project area including **6,246 acres** of easements and **551 acres** restored to wetland and upland habitat. These activities were conducted throughout the Project Area in the following counties: **Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Ottertail, Stevens and Wilkin**.

Result 3: Upper Minnesota River Project Area #6

\$1,203, 247 of WRP funds were expended in **Big Stone and Traverse Counties** in this Project Area. This included **782 acres** of easements and **673 acres** of wetland and upland habitat restored. A highlight of this Project Area is the WRP easement on the Moberg Group of landowners which was subsequently purchased by the USF&WS and named the Centennial Waterfowl Production Area. This project restored nearly 600 acres of wetland and upland habitat in 2003 and witnessed a tremendous amount and diversity of migrating and resident wildlife species in 2004.

Result 4: Alexandria Moraine Area #7

\$724,791 of WRP funds were expended in **Kandiyohi and Pope Counties** on **896 acres** of easements and **24 acres** of habitat restored.

Result 5: Des Moines River Valley Project Area #9

In Jackson County \$1,966,915 of WRP funds were expended on 750 acres of easements and 17 acres of habitat restored.

Result 6: Southern Lakes Project Area #10

\$7,241,174 of WRP funds were expended on 3204 acres of easements and 1818 acres of wetland and upland habitat restoration. Blue Earth, Freeborn, Rice, Steele and Waseca Counties is where the work was performed. Two special areas that were focused on include the Straight River Marsh project and The Grass Lake project.

The Straight River Marsh project is a 10,000-acre project containing a 1200 acre drained wetland basin. NRCS and its many partners currently have placed numerous easements in the area. This project lies in a linear corridor in Steele County.

The Grass Lake project is a 5000-acre project containing a 1300-acre drained wetland basin. NRCS and its many partners have placed easements on a number of acres in this project area. The Grass Lake project is three miles from a spatial corridor but falls within the Southern Lakes Project Area.

Sections V. through X. have been left alone as they were originally submitted. This has been done to document events and financial items as they occurred.

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

March 14, 2003 to June 30, 2004

The balance of the budget was transferred to Ducks Unlimited for administration and will be reported by Ducks Unlimited.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$0

July 24, 2001 to March 13, 2003

TOTAL BUDGET: \$350,000

All Results: Personnel:	= \$ 262,600
All Results: Equipment:	= \$ 61,400
All Results: Development:	= \$ 0
All Results: Acquisition:	= \$ 0
All Results: Other:	= \$ 26,000
TOTAL	= \$ 350,000

Budget:**Personnel (includes 1 ½ year's salary and eligible benefits): \$262,600 – LCMR funds**

	Allocated	Spent	Obligated
Civil Engineering Technician for the Southern Lakes region	\$ 57,600	\$8,700.26	\$0
Wetland Restoration Technician for the Aspen Parklands region	\$ 82,500	\$ 37,455.99	\$0
Wetland Restoration Technician for the Border Prairie region	\$ 88,125	\$ 36,100.63	\$0
Additional summer help	\$ 34,375	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$262,600	\$ 82,256.88	\$0

Equipment = \$61,400– LCMR funds

	Allocated	Spent	Obligated
Computer, software, accessories	\$11,000	\$ 7,975.05	\$ 4,585.30
Engineering survey equipment & ATV's	\$46,400	\$ 44,787.43	
Misc. field equipment, i.e. cell phones, lath, flags, etc.	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$61,400	\$52,762.48	\$ 57,347.78

Development – N/A**Other = \$26,000 – LCMR funds**

	Allocated	Spent	Obligated
Printing, mailings, distribution	\$3,000	\$ 24.50	\$0
Miscellaneous office supplies	\$3,000	\$ 159.51	\$0
Travel for personnel outside Minnesota (National training sessions, other out of state training, 2-3 sessions/year/employee)	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Travel for personnel within Minnesota	\$10,000	\$ 937.58	\$0
TOTAL	\$26,000	\$ 1,121.59	\$0

Acquisition = \$4,000,000.00 - NRCS funds

NRCS through the WRP has committed to spending at least \$4 million dollars in the identified habitat corridors. The corridor the money is spent in will be dependent upon quantity and quality of the applications received from that corridor. The personnel hired through this agreement will promote and restore lands within their assigned corridor. The hiring of these employees will insure numerous high quality applications will be received and funded for the life of the habitat corridor project. Average acquisition and restoration costs vary from \$800/acre in the Aspen Parkland region to \$2800/ac in the Southern Lakes region. Total acres placed under WRP easement over the LCMR biennium will be approximately 4,000.

March 14, 2003 to May 1, 2003

All equipment purchased with LCMR funds, in the past and future, will be used for WRP activities by NRCS or its partners following the completion of this LCMR project. Title and license of this purchased equipment will be held by the NRCS.

May 2002 to March 13, 2003

We are requesting to transfer \$11,000 from Engineering Software to Engineering survey equipment & ATV's. NRCS will supply all of the required engineering software. We are also requesting to transfer \$5,000 from Computer, software, accessories to Engineering survey equipment & ATV's. We overestimated the cost of the computer systems and underestimated the costs of the engineering equipment and ATV's. The total cost of the equipment budget will remain at \$61,400.00. This budget amendment was approved on November 20, 2002.

July 2001 to May 2002

Due to the delay in hiring of the personnel, we are requesting to shift \$45,400 from personnel to equipment. The request to transfer \$45,000 was approved by LCMR on May 22, 2002.

NRCS, USFWS and MWA will provide training, guidance and administrative functions, office space and vehicles necessary for the employees to perform their duties. The estimated in-kind cost provided by the agencies and MWA will be up to \$175,000 for the biennium.

Any equipment purchased will be used for similar activities following completion of this project. We anticipate subsequent LCMR funding requests that will continue this effort, but will continue our support even without additional LCMR funds.

Completion Date:

Employees were recently hired and will report for work in June 2002 and will work through June 2004. NRCS and partners will provide ongoing training. The employees will begin work on existing applications or projects within the habitat corridor they are assigned. FY 2002 WRP money should become available sometime in June 2002. New projects will be funded at that time and the employees will focus their time on the processing of these new applications. Easements are typically recorded within 10 months of funding. These easements are perpetual. Restoration activities will begin in the spring of 2002 and continue through 2003 and beyond.

Result Status: NA

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

Minnesota NRCS has spent over 48 million dollars restoring over 45,000 acres of lands through its various easement programs since 1993.

B. Current and Future Spending:

With the additional personnel hired under this project and through other NRCS agreements with Minnesota Waterfowl Association, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited, NRCS foresees at least 5 to 20 million

dollars sent to Minnesota for WRP funding annually over the next six years. NRCS through the WRP program has currently committed to spending at least 4 million over each LCMR biennium within the identified habitat corridors. Because of the placement of personnel hired for WRP implementation through this agreement. The majority of the WRP funding has been spent in LCMR corridors thereby exceeding NRCS's funding commitment to LCMR 3 fold.

As part of the new Federal Farm Bill, NRCS will work with Technical Service Providers (TSP) to accelerate implementation of programs like WRP. This can be accomplished through the use of contribution agreements which will require a 50% non-federal match. It is anticipated that LCMR funds could be used for a contribution agreement which effectively could double the LCMR contribution tied to the corridor project.

C. Project Partners:

The LCMR coordinators at the Minnesota NRCS state office are:

Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist, 651-602-7857, email: tim.koehler@mn.usda.gov

Jean Sieben, Easement Specialist, 651-602-7873, email: jean.sieben@mn.usda.gov

March 14, 2003

The agreement between MWA, NRCS and the FWS that facilitated the original \$350,000 project budget was terminated March 14, 2003. DU and NRCS will work together to complete this project with DU administering the balance of the allocated budget.

July 24, 2001 to March 13, 2003

NRCS will be the recipient of the agreement with Minnesota Waterfowl Association and the Department of Natural Resources to administer the LCMR funds for the Wetlands Reserve Program. In addition, NRCS has entered into an agreement with MWA and the FWS to facilitate this LCMR workplan. MWA will hire and perform the administrative functions necessary to maintain the LCMR funded employees. The FWS and NRCS will provide housing, vehicles and equipment needed for the employees to perform their assigned duties. The NRCS and the FWS will provide training and technical support to the employees. The NRCS and MWA will provide administrative supervision and support to the employees. NRCS will set primary workload priorities for the employees. NRCS will approve all bills submitted to the DNR by MWA for reimbursement.

NRCS has two ongoing agreements outside of the LCMR project:

One agreement is with Ducks Unlimited (DU) in which two Wetland Restoration Technicians have been employed and are stationed in the Alexandria NRCS field office and the Albert Lea NRCS field office. A Civil Engineering Technician has also been hired to work on the Glacial Ridge project northwest Minnesota. DU also provides engineering services and program incentives to funded WRP projects.

The other agreement is with Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in which two Wetland Restoration Technicians have also been employed. One is stationed at MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington and one is stationed in the FWS office in Litchfield. It is expected that this second position will be relocated to the Litchfield USFWS office in order to better facilitate work within the LCMR project areas in the prairie pothole region of Western Minnesota.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

News of the project and individual accomplishments will be disseminated by periodic news releases from partners included in the LCMR project, and our NRCS/SWCD field offices. Information about the corridor project and WRP progress will be incorporated into the NRCS WRP web page located at the following address:
<http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/ecs/wrp/>

VIII. LOCATIONS:

NRCS will acquire easements in project areas 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic workprogram progress reports will be submitted not later than May 31, 2002; November 30, 2002; and March 30, 2003, and November 30, 2003 or earlier if funds are expended before the completion date. A final workprogram report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 2004 or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

X. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A