

FINAL REPORT

2001 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2004

AUG 30 2004

TITLE: 4(a) Forest and Prairie Stewardship of Private Lands

PROJECT MANAGER: Doug Anderson

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Road, St Paul, MN 55155-4044

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.foreststeward.org

FUND:

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2001, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 4 (a)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$545,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project was highly successful in providing management plans for 190 private forest landowners on 19,750 acres and 40 private prairie landowners on 4,166 acres. These plans are the foundation for protecting the forest and prairie resources on private lands in Minnesota.

The plans also provide direction for enhancement of these resources by cost shared management activities on the land. On the prairie lands, the landowners become eligible for prairie habitat assistance through the Landowner Incentive Program for Prairie Species at Risk, and other conservation programs.

The forest portion of the project included funding for cost share practices. This portion funded 3298 acres of tree and shrub planting and seeding; 1076 acres of forest stand improvement; 1167 acres of planting site preparation; 18 acres of grass seeding; 2739 feet of fencing; creation of 2 wetlands, 2 wildlife openings and 6 wildlife water facilities. 50% of this was funded by the owners as a cost share match. The plans also made this forested land eligible for additional cost share projects.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This program involves private forestry consultants, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, forest industry, The Nature Conservancy, the US Forest Service, the Minnesota Forestry Association and other conservation groups. Information about it has been disseminated through forestry publications, brochures handed out at fairs and events, and through web sites. Considerable information travels by word of mouth as well.

NOTE: If you are using the electronic copy of the abstract, delete the LCMR directions in italics before sending your abstract to LCMR.

Date of Report: August 20, 2004
Date of Next Status Report: LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Work-program Approval: Initiated in July 2001, FY02
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2004 - (FY 02-04)

LCMR Work Program 2001 Update

I. PROJECT TITLE: 4(a) Forest and Prairie Stewardship of Private Lands

Program Manager and Affiliation: Doug Anderson - MN DNR-Forestry

Program Sponsors: John Bathke, President, Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA)
 Ron Nargang, State Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

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 612-331-0750(TNC)
E-mail: doug.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us
Fax Number: 651-296-5954 (Anderson)

Web Page Address: www.foreststeward.org (for forest landowners)

Total Biennial Project Budget:

In DNR-Forestry account number 04 030 3728 304 (Forest Stewardship)

	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Current:	\$485,000	\$449,915.24	\$35,084.76

In DNR-Forestry account number 04 030 3730 304 (Prairie Stewardship)

	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Current:	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0

All LCMR	Allocated	Expended	Balance
	\$545,000.00 ***	\$509,915.24	\$35,084.76

Match: Landowners will match the financial assistance they receive. In addition, we will seek donations to provide additional assistance.

A. Legal Citation: ML 2001, 1st Special Session, Chap.2, Sec. 14, Subd. 4(a).
 Forest and Prairie Stewardship of Private Lands 545,000;

Appropriation Language:

Forest and Prairie Stewardship of Private Lands
\$272,500 the first year and \$272,500 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources, in cooperation with the Minnesota Forestry Association and the Nature Conservancy, to develop stewardship plans for private prairie and forested lands and to implement natural resource projects by providing matching money to private landowners. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2004, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

B. Status of Match Requirement:

Matching funds are used and documented below.

	Required:	Anticipated:	Raised:
Result A. Private consultant and other plan writers matching (cash)	\$ 0	\$ 17,000	\$ 63,465
Result B. Conservation groups and other private donations (cash)	\$ 0	\$ 100,000	\$ 20,194*
Result B. Landowner share of 50-50 cost share: (some cash, some in-kind)	\$ 0	\$ 427,000	\$ 370,908.80
Total of Matched Funds	\$ 0	\$ 544,000	\$ 454,567.80

* The amount raised is less than anticipated as we did not get the match we anticipated from Global ReLeaf.

Result A matches will occur as the contracts are let to private sector and non-profit organizations to write the Forest Stewardship plans for the landowners. None of these matches can be quantified before the project begins since project proposals to apply against the LCMR funds will be bid out and the winning bid cannot be predicted.

Result B matches are with landowners implementing projects. Due to the inherent nature of the matches with landowners, many of the matches will occur over the entire time period of the project. All matches will be committed before any LCMR funds are expended. Result B matches will also result from donations from private sector organizations. (See attachment 1 when such matches are raised)

II. & III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project was highly successful in providing management plans for 190 private forest landowners on 19,750 acres and 40 private prairie landowners on 4,166 acres. These plans are the foundation for protecting the forest and prairie resources on private lands in Minnesota.

The plans also provide direction for enhancement of these resources by cost shared management activities on the land. On the prairie lands, the landowners become eligible for prairie habitat assistance through the Landowner Incentive Program for Prairie Species at Risk, and other conservation programs.

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1 - LANDOWNER MOTIVATION THROUGH STEWARDSHIP PLANS

Total LCMR Budget - \$163,000 for contracts with private sector professionals to write plans (Personnel)

Result A-1: Stewardship Plans on Forest Lands

	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Current:	\$103,000	\$79,006.44	\$23,993.56

(All the money was encumbered, but one contractor failed to complete his contract in spite of many assurances to the contrary.)

Result Status: Update, see II. & III.

Result A-2: Stewardship Plans on Prairie Lands

	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Current:	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0

Result Status: Update, see II & III.

Result 2 COST-SHARING TO CONVERT STEWARDSHIP PLANS INTO ACTION

Total LCMR budget - \$382,000 from LCMR for 50% cost-share incentives (Development)

LCMR's cost-share contribution will be at least doubled by landowners and other private donors.

Minnesota Forestry Association has requested the Forest Stewardship Committee and the DNR-Division of Forestry establish cost share rates and standards. Historical federal and state program specifications and the desire to avoid competition between programs will be considerations in establishing the rates and priorities. The Forest Stewardship Committee will also specify the kinds of practices that will be priorities for matching funds.

Matching funds will be sought from private sector for-profit and non-profit organizations. These organizations may specify the county (or counties) and practice (or practices) where their funds and the matched funds will be targeted. No match is legally required, but matches of about \$527,000 are expected and will be documented.

Selection and funding distribution to local landowners will be done by the DNR-Division of Forestry at no cost to the LCMR funding.

Result Status:

	Allocated	Expended	Balance
Current:	\$382,000	\$370,908.80	\$11,091.20

(All money was encumbered, but some landowner projects scheduled for completion in the spring of 2004 didn't get completed.)

Result Status: Update, see II & III.

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

How LCMR funds are allocated within the project for all results?

Personnel - \$ 163,000 (54,000 year 1 + 109,000 year 2)
(Private sector contracts to prepare Forest Stewardship plans with no administrative costs for state personnel charged to LCMR)

Equipment
Acquisition

Development - \$ 382,000 (218,000 year 1 + 164,000 year 2)

(On-the-land activities-no administrative costs charged to LCMR)

Total \$ 545,000

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

Spending:

	July 97-June 02 Prior Expenditures	July 01-June 04 Project Period	July 03-June 06 Future Expenditures
LCMR	\$ 1,325,000	\$ 545,000	\$ 800,000
Other State	\$ 300,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Non State Match	\$ 1,090,000	\$ 544,000	\$ 700,000
In-kind			
Total	<u>\$2,715,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,089,000</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

Project Partners:

MN State Forester -DNR-Division of Forestry field staff will provide day-to-day program assistance. About 30 full-time-equivalents (FTEs) work on private land assistance. No cost to LCMR. These 30 FTEs not included in budget context above.

Private Lands Coordinator - MN DNR-Forestry; Forest Stewardship Committee Chair; Committee will screen funding applicants. Position is currently vacant, but when filled, will work 15% on this program. No cost to LCMR.

Larry Himanga - DNR-Forestry Incentives Programs specialist; 35% of his time of this program. No cost to LCMR.

MN Association of Consulting Foresters, other consulting foresters, and private sector biologists and ecologists will bid to prepare plans. An estimated 6+ FTEs will be involved.

Jim Lemmerman - Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Minnesota Association of (91) Soil and Water Conservation Districts agree to be involved

Steve Merchant -DNR-Section of Wildlife staff will be involved. No cost to LCMR.

Peter Buessler of DNR-Wildlife will spend about 15% of his time on the project. No cost to LCMR.

Lee Pfanmuller of DNR-Ecological Services will be involved. No cost to LCMR.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) will be involved. No cost to LCMR.

Time: Project will be completed within 3 years of initiation.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Each participating landowner will receive a personal Forest Stewardship plan or Prairie Stewardship plan for their property based on their goals and the capacity of the land. The partner organizations will play a big role in advertising and disseminating the information. Each landowner will also have the chance to rate the plan and service they receive in an effort to constantly upgrade such service. To date, landowners have been very happy.

Landowners may apply at www.foreststeward.org . Data on land development projects will be provided to LCMR staff in electronic format.

VIII. LOCATION:

Statewide. Note: Landowners receive the subsection map included in their Woodland and Prairie Stewardship plans along with a description of the significance of the owner's property in that subsection.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than December 15 and June 15 of each fiscal year. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 2004, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.