

2001 Final Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2004

Title : CH-01 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors

Wildlife land restoration in (2a) Projects in this segment will be in all corridors: 1. Aspen Parklands, 2. Mississippi Headwaters, 3. Border Prairie, 4. Central Lakes, 5. Lower St. Louis River, 6. Upper Minnesota River, 7. Alexandria Moraine, 8. Big woods – North, 9. Des Moines River Valley, 10. Southern Lakes, and 11. Mississippi Blufflands.

Wildlife land acquisition (4d) will be in all corridors: 1. Aspen Parklands, 2. Mississippi Headwaters, 3. Border Prairie, 4. Central Lakes, 5. Lower St. Louis River, 6. Upper Minnesota River, 7. Alexandria Moraine, 8. Big woods – North, 9. Des Moines River Valley, 10. Southern Lakes, and 11. Mississippi Blufflands.

Project Manager: Joe Wood

Affiliation: Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA)

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Fund: Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Appropriation Amount: \$ 250,540

Restoration (2a): \$40,540 Acquisition (4d): \$210,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The first objective of this project was to restore and develop up to 270 acres of habitat corridors suitable for whitetail deer and other wildlife through various management practices at an average cost of \$300 per acre. The second objective was to acquire 800 acres of habitat from willing sellers to expand/create habitat corridors suitable for whitetail deer and other wildlife. Acquired parcels would be donated to the MN DNR or other suitable public land management agency.

A total of 204 acres of land, for which the Trust Fund was a source, was restored in 8 of the habitat corridors utilizing \$40,540 in the restoration appropriation (2a) at an average cost of \$195 per acre. An additional 75.2 acres were restored in 2 habitat corridors utilizing matching funds of \$5,895 at an average cost of \$78 per acre. Total acres restored met projection with cost per acre below projected costs. These projects will provide improved habitat that will enhance both game and non-game wildlife well into the future providing an increase opportunity for recreational activities.

A total of 116.6 acres were acquired in 3 habitat corridors utilizing \$210,000 of the acquisition appropriation (4b) at an average cost of \$1,803 per acre. An additional 92.7 acres were acquired in 5 habitat corridors utilizing matching funds of \$140,014 at an average cost of \$1,504 per acre. Cost per acre was substantially higher than projected due to location of land being in areas of increasing development and value. This decreased the amount of land purchased with appropriated funds. These acquisitions have increased the public land available for outdoor recreation in the habitat corridors by placing this land in the public trust. This increased land base will provide protection of important habitat and continued recreational opportunities for the people of Minnesota.

DATE OF REPORT: December 5, 2004

LCMR FINAL WORK PROGRAM REPORT

Title: CH-01 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors

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Total Biennial Project Budget

Fund	Year	Approp	Spent	Reimburse d	Balance	Match
Restoring MN Fish & Wildlife Corridors	2001	\$250,54 0				
Restoration (2a)		\$40,540	\$40,54 0	\$40,540	0	\$5,895
Acquisition (4d)		\$210,00 0	\$210,0 00	\$210,000	0	\$130,01 4
Grand Total		\$250,54 0	\$250,5 40	\$250,540	0	\$135,90 9

Legal Citation: 04(e) M.L. 2001 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 04(e) \$11,745,000 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors

\$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. 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.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

The first objective of this project was to restore and develop up to 270 acres of habitat corridors suitable for whitetail deer and other wildlife through various management practices at an average cost of \$300 per acre. The second objective was to acquire 800 acres of habitat from willing sellers to expand/create habitat corridors suitable for whitetail deer and other wildlife. Acquired parcels would be donated to the MN DNR or other suitable public land management agency.

A total of 204 acres of land, for which the Trust Fund was a source, was restored in 4 of the habitat corridors utilizing \$40,540 in the restoration appropriation (2a) at an average cost of \$195 per acre. An additional 75.2 acres were restored in 2 habitat corridors utilizing matching funds of \$5,895 at an average cost of \$78 per acre. Total acres restored met projection with cost per acre below projected costs. These projects will provide improved habitat that will enhance both game and non-game wildlife well into the future providing an increase opportunity for recreational activities.

A total of 116.6 acres were acquired in 3 habitat corridors utilizing \$210,000 of the acquisition appropriation (4b) at an average cost of \$1,537 per acre. An additional 92.7 acres were acquired in 5 habitat corridors utilizing matching funds of \$140,014 at an average cost of \$1,504 per acre. Cost per acre was substantially higher than projected due to location of land being in areas of increasing development and value. This decreased the amount of land purchased with appropriated funds. These acquisitions have increased the public land available for outdoor recreation in the habitat corridors by placing this land in the public trust. This increased land base will provide protection of important habitat and continued recreational opportunities for the people of Minnesota.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association originally had \$210,000 allocated for restoration projects for Phase 1. In January 2004, MDHA reallocated \$169,460 to the partnership for other projects.

Result 1: #1 Aspen Parklands Project Area

Appropriation used in restoration and habitat improvement efforts on Thief Lake WMA, Jacksnipe WMA, and the Higginbotham WMA.

Restoration

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Pennington	Higginbotham	0	10	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Pennington	Jacksnipe	0	20	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Roseau	Thief Lake	0	25	\$2,370	\$0	\$2,370
Total		0	55	\$5,370	\$0	\$5,370

The Higginbotham WMA project created a 10-acre food plot for wildlife. This plot will be maintained for wildlife in the future. The Jacksnipe WMA project regenerated a 20-acre overgrown brush community. The Thief Lake WMA project renovated 3 existing old fields into a wildlife openings planted with a grass legume mixture.

Result 2: #2 Mississippi Headwaters Project Area

No activity in this habitat corridor.

Result 3: #3 Border Prairie Project Area**Acquisition**

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Otter Tail	Doran	30.2	0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Stevens	Eldorado	9.5	9.5	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total		39.7	9.5	\$70,000	\$60,000	\$10,000

MDHA matched \$10,000 in trust fund money with \$10,000 in Hide for Habitat funds in partnership with Pheasants Forever to complete the financial commitment on the Eldorado WMA purchase. MDHA utilized \$50,000 to partner in the acquisition of an additional 300 acres for the Doran WMA. MDHA was one of 20 partners in acquiring the property.

The Eldorado WMA and the Doran WMA additions consist of cropland and wetland areas mixed with small woodlots. These properties will provide a variety of habitat for deer, pheasant, turkey, waterfowl, and non-game wildlife.

Result 4: #4 Central Lakes Project Area

Trust fund money was used to restore and improve the habitat on 35 acres of the Four Brooks WMA.

Restoration

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Mille Lacs	Four Brooks	35	0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Total		35	0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0

The Four Brooks WMA project included the seeding of 35 acres of a newly developed trail and field to a legume/grass mixture. The new seeding will provide high quality deer, turkey and grouse forage. This unit had no existing wildlife openings.

Result 5: #5 Lower St. Louis River Project Area

No activity in this habitat corridor.

Result 6: #6 Upper Minnesota River Project Area

No activity in this habitat corridor.

Result 7: #7 Alexandria Moraine Project Area

Monies were used to assist in the purchase of a 300-acre parcel to be known as the Regal Flats WMA.

Acquisition

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Kandiyohi	Regal Flats	0	9	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Total		0	9	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

This parcel was purchased with \$10,000 in MDHA funds in partnership with other wildlife organizations. This land lies outside of the project area by 4.63 miles and is reported only as MDHA matching funds.

Result 8: #8 Big Woods Project Area

MDHA use trust fund money to complete hardwood reforestation and habitat improvement projects on the Corinna and Succonix WMA's

Restoration

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Wright	Succonix	11	0	\$3,648	\$3,648	\$0
Wright	Corinna	10	0	\$3,648	\$3,648	\$0
Total		21	0	\$7,296	\$7,296	\$0

The Succonix WMA project included the restoration of 11 acres of older brome grass field within the Big Woods hardwood forest by planting bare root seedlings of white, red and bur oak. The Corinna WMA project included a similar restoration of 10 acres of grass field to the same oak species.

Acquisition

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Meeker	Manannah	0	80*	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Total		0	80	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

MDHA partnered with Pheasants Forever and MN DNR in purchasing an 80 acre parcel of land which added 120 acres to the Manannah Wildlife Management Area. MDHA used Hide for Habitat money to match partner dollars.

Result 9: #9 Des Moines River Valley Project Area

MDHA used \$30,000 in trust fund money to assist in the acquisition of a 17 acre addition to the Timber Lake WMA.

Acquisition

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse e	Match
Jackson	Flatgard	0	35.2	\$84,480	\$0	\$84,480
Cottonwood	Banks WMA	0	32	\$5,534	\$0	\$5,534
Jackson	Timber Lake WMA Add.	17	0	\$30,000	\$30,000	0
Total		17	67.2	\$120,014	\$30,000	\$90,014

Matching funds were used to acquire and restore the Flatgard parcel in Jackson County, and add 32 acres to the existing Banks WMA in Cottonwood County. The Flatgard property will be owned and managed by MDHA, but open to public use (hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, etc.). The Flatgard and Banks WMA's are particularly important because it includes sensitive watershed areas, and protects the WMA from suburban encroachment.

MDHA had to pay \$5,534 in additional interest that accrued due to a prolonged acquisition process by the MN DNR. These funds could not be matched with trust fund monies.

Restoration

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Jackson	Flatgard	0	20.2	\$525	\$0	\$525

Total	0	20.2	\$525	\$0	\$525
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Matching money was used to reseed cultivated property.

Result 10: #10 Southern Lakes Project Area

MDHA provided trust fund money for the restoration and habitat on the Sauber Woods WMA.

Restoration

County	Parcel	TF	Match	Cost	LCMR	Match
		Acres	Acres		Reimburse	
Rice	Sauber Woods	8	0	\$2,440	\$2,440	\$0
Total		8	0	\$2,440	\$2,440	\$0

The Sauber Woods project included direct seeding of oak acorns, walnuts, and green ash over 8 acres of a previously cultivated field. The seeding provides increased mast and woody cover for a variety of wildlife.

Acquisition

County	Parcel	TF	Match	Cost	LCMR	Match
		Acres	Acres		Reimburse	
Le Sueur	Horseshoe Lake	0	2	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Total		0	2	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

MDHA used matching money to purchase 2 acres, protecting approximately one mile of shoreline on Horseshoe Lake in LeSueur County. The 80 acre parcel also contains hardwood stands and old fields that will provide habitat for multiple species of wildlife.

Result 11: #11 Mississippi Blufflands Project Area

Trust fund money was provided for 5 restoration projects at Gribben Valley, Pease WMA, Whitewater WMA and two separate projects on the Hammel Tract.

Restoration

County	Parcel	TF	Match	Cost	LCMR	Match
		Acres	Acres		Reimburse	
Fillmore	Gribben Valley	26	0	\$1,563	\$1,563	\$0
Fillmore	Pease	17	0	\$5,388	\$5,388	\$0
Houston	Hammel Tract(a)	52	0	\$16,993	\$16,993	\$0
Houston	Hammel Tract(b)	14	0	\$1,832	\$1,832	\$0
Winona	Whitewater	31	0	\$2,508	\$2,508	\$0
Total		140	0	\$28,304	\$28,304	\$0

The Gribben Valley project included timber stand improvement through chemical release. The Pease WMA project included the hand planting of 2,250 assorted oaks to develop a future mast crop for wildlife. The Hammel Tract (a) is part of the Richard Doerr Hardwood Forest. The project include the planting of 18,000 white oaks, 18,000 red oaks, and 5,000 black walnut on 52 acres. A second project on the Hammel Tract (b) was to release young red and white oak from competing woody vegetation through felling, girdling and herbicides on 14 acres. The project on the Whitewater WMA included planting 31 acres with 22,500 seedlings (bur oak, green ash, cottonwood, walnut, silver maple, and white pine) after the completion of a timber sale.

Acquisition

County	Parcel	TF Acres	Match Acres	Cost	LCMR Reimburse	Match
Houston	Slate Property	59.9	0	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
Total		59.9	0	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0

MDHA used \$120,000 of Trust Fund money to purchase the Slate property in Houston County in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation. Acreage reported has been prorated for MDHA portion of purchase. This property will be added to the Chisholm Valley WMA and will protect important white-tail deer and turkey habitat.

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

All Results: Personnel: NA
 All Results: Equipment: NA
 All Results: Development: \$40,540
 All Results: Acquisition: \$210,000
 All Results: Other: NA

TOTAL BUDGET: \$250,540

VI. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SPENDING

A. Past Spending

Since 1985 the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association has dedicated \$1.8 million dollars toward habitat acquisition, wildlife research, and habitat restoration. To date MDHA has not used any of our allotted CH-01 funding.

B. Current and Future Spending

The long-range goal for the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association was to restore and develop up to 270 acres (2a) and acquire 800+ acres of land from willing sellers to help create and expand wildlife corridors. All appropriated trust fund money totaling \$250,540 have been spent on projects. MDHA has matched the trust fund expenditures with \$135,909 for these same projects. MDHA has also used funds in the form of MDHA staff salary, mileage, and office logistics on projects dealing with LCMR CH-01 project areas.

C. Project Partners

Individual Chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, local sporting/conservation and civic groups.

D. Time:

All projects were completed by June 30 2004.

VII. DISSEMINATION

Land acquired and/or restored for public use will be posted with appropriate signage.

VIII. LOCATION

Wildlife habitat was acquired and restored within the established habitat corridors for the purpose of developing and improving habitat for white-tailed deer and other wildlife and plant communities.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Progress reports have been submitted to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources on May 31, 2002, November 30, 2002, March 30, 2003, and November 30, 2003. This is the Final Work Program Report.

**MN Deer Hunters Assn
Attachment A**

Personnel Equipment Development Acquisition Other Total Biennial Project Budget						
Fund	Approp	Spent	Reimbursed	Current Balance	Remaining Balance	Match
Restoring MN Fish & Wildlife Corridors	\$250,540	\$250,540	\$250,540	\$0	\$0	\$135,909
Restoration (2a)	\$40,540	\$40,540	\$40,540	\$0	\$0	\$5,895
Acquisition (4d)	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$0	\$0	\$130,014
Grand Total	\$250,540	\$250,540	\$250,540	\$0	\$0	\$135,909

**Attachment B - Habitat Corridors Partnership PHASE I - Individual Work Program
Final Report for All Completed Activities thru June 30, 2004**

Activity	Partner	LCMR Allocation	LCMR Expenditures	LCMR Balance	Proposed Accomplishments			Current LCMR Accomplishments			Other Funds Committed	Other Funds Expended	Other Funds Balance
					LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored	LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored			
Acquisition (4d)	MDHA	210,000	210,000	0	270	0	0	116.6	0	0	5,895	5,895	0
Restoration (4d)	MDHA	40,540	40,540	0	800	0	0	204	0	0	130,014	130,014	0

Attachment C - Habitat Corridors Partnership PHASE I - Individual Work Program Summary by Project Area

Final Report for All Completed Activities thru June 30, 2004

Work Program: CH-01	LCMR Funds						Other Funds					
	LCMR Dollars Expended	Acquisition Acres	Easement Acres	Restoration Acres	Shore Miles	Misc.	Other Funds Expended	Acquisition Acres	Easement Acres	Restoration Acres	Shore Miles	Misc.
Partner: MN Deer Hunters Assn												
Project Area 1												
Aspen Parklands	0	0	0	0	0	0	5370	0		55	0	0
Project Area 2												
Mississippi Headwaters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Area 3												
Border Prairie	60,000	39.7	0	0	0	0	10000	9.5	0	0	0	0
Project Area 4												
Central Lakes	2,500	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Area 5												
Lower St. Louis River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Area 6												
Upper Minnesota River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Area 7												
Alexandria Moraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	10000	9	0	0	0	0
Project Area 8												
Big Woods - North	7,296	0	0	21	0	0	10000	5	0	0	0	0
Project Area 9												
Des Moines River Valley	30,000	17	0	0	0	0	90539	67.2	0	20.2	0	0
Project Area 10												
Southern Lakes	2,440	0	0	8	0	0	10000	2	0	0	0	0
Project Area 11												
Mississippi Blufflands	148,304	59.9	0	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	250,540	116.6	0	204	0	0	135909	92.7	0	75.2	0	0