

Date of Report: May 20, 2004
LCMR Final Work Program Report

JUL 07 2004

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$70,000.00
Amount Expended: \$69,996.20
Balance: \$3.80

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. The 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

2001 Project Abstract

For the period ending June 30, 2004

TITLE: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors (#CH-01)
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (2b) - Project
Areas #3 (Border Prairie), #7 (Alexandria Moraine), #8
(Big Woods North), and #10 (Southern Lakes)

PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Wolff

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ADDRESS: Federal Building, 720 St. Germain Street, St. Cloud, MN 56301

WEB SITE ADDRESS: <http://midwest.fws.gov>

FUND: Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$70,000.00

Since 1987, the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program has restored more than 13,000 drained wetlands (45,000 acres) and seeded more than 700 upland sites (17,000 acres) to native grasses and forbs, on private lands in Minnesota. Since fiscal year 1999, the USFWS has expended in excess of \$1.2 million annually to deliver the Partners Program in Minnesota; such expenditures are represented by technical assistance (personnel, administrative support) and habitat restoration (project construction) funding. Through its Partners Program, the USFWS works with other federal and state agencies, local units of government, tribal entities, conservation organizations, and individual landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats on private land. This program emphasizes restoring habitats and native vegetation for fish and wildlife in concert with the goals of individual private landowners. These projects benefit both Minnesota landowners and the general public by providing habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, improving water quality and watershed health, reducing non-point source pollution, and creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and education.

The LCMR funding that was used through this work program, in the amount of \$70,000.00, accelerated the USFWS' existing Partners Program through voluntary restoration of an additional 317.0 acres of wetland habitats on private lands within LCMR Project Areas 3, 7, 8 and 10. USFWS personnel also provided technical and financial assistance (\$150,000 in-kind match) to these private landowners who voluntarily restored these wetland habitats on their land. Once these habitats were restored, they are protected for no less than 10 years through agreements between the USFWS and the respective landowners. The USFWS also committed \$140,000 in matching funds to support this overall project. These funds were submitted to Pheasants Forever to make payments on invoices of eligible wetland restoration construction projects.

In summary, a total of 25 projects were completed on private land within LCMR Project Areas 3, 7, 8 and 10, restoring 56 wetlands and 317 wetland acres, and expending \$69,996.20 of LCMR funding from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004.

Of the \$140,000 USFWS match funding committed to this work program, \$119,855 has been spent to date on 28 projects, to restore 129 wetlands and 389 wetland acres, from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004. These habitat restoration projects were completed on private land within LCMR Project Areas 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The balance of USFWS match funds remaining (\$20,145.36) will be expended on projects during the 2004 field season.

Wetland Sites Restored: 14
Wetland Acres Restored: 117.6

USFWS match funding expended in Project Area #10 from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004: \$12,061.38

Projects Completed: 2
Wetland Sites Restored: 3
Wetland Acres Restored: 51.0

USFWS match funding was also expended within LCMR Project Areas 2, 4, 6 and 9. Results are listed below.

Project Area #2 (Mississippi Headwaters)

USFWS match funding expended in Project Area #2 from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004: \$2,033.01

Projects Completed: 2
Wetland Sites Restored: 10
Wetland Acres Restored: 30.5

Project Area #4 (Central Lakes)

USFWS match funding expended in Project Area #4 from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004: \$9,902.00

Projects Completed: 2
Wetland Sites Restored: 5
Wetland Acres Restored: 57.0

Project Area #6 (Upper Minnesota River)

USFWS match funding expended in Project Area #6 from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004: \$970.00

Projects Completed: 1
Wetland Sites Restored: 3
Wetland Acres Restored: 5.0

Project Area #9 (Des Moines River Valley)

USFWS match funding expended in Project Area #9 from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004: \$10,000.00

Projects Completed: 1
Wetland Sites Restored: 4
Wetland Acres Restored: 40.2

Grand Total: 317.0 wetland acres were restored and \$69,996.20 LCMR funding was expended from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004.

389.2 wetland acres were restored and \$119,854.64 USFWS match funding was expended from July 24, 2001 through May 4, 2004.

V: TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

	<u>LCMR Funding</u>	<u>USFWS Match</u>
All Results - Personnel:	-0-	-0-
All Results - Equipment:	-0-	-0-
All Results - Development:	\$70,000	\$140,000
All Results - Acquisition:	-0-	-0-
All Results - Other:	-0-	-0-
TOTAL:	\$70,000	\$140,000

VI: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

Since 1987, the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Minnesota has restored more than 13,000 drained wetlands (45,000 acres) and seeded more than 700 upland sites (17,000 acres) to native grasses and forbs. Since fiscal year 1999, the USFWS has expended in excess of \$1.2 million annually to deliver the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Minnesota; such expenditures are represented by technical assistance (personnel, administrative support) and habitat restoration (project construction) funding.

B. Current and Future Spending:

The USFWS committed \$140,000 in matching funds to support this overall project, of which \$20,145.36 remain. These remaining match funds will be expended on projects during the 2004 field season. The USFWS match funds were submitted to Pheasants Forever to make payments on invoices of eligible wetland restoration construction projects. In addition, the USFWS provided technical and financial assistance (\$150,000 in-kind match) to assist landowners to voluntarily restore wetlands and other habitats on their lands.

C. Project Partners:

Through its Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the USFWS continues to work with other federal and state agencies, local units of government, tribal entities, conservation organizations, and individual landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats on private lands in Minnesota.

CH-01 efforts were coordinated with other involved Project Area partners.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

The Project Manager and other partners will develop initial information products to inform the public about the scope and significance of this project in wetland, grassland, and riparian restoration in Minnesota. Other periodic progress reports, project completion reports, and pertinent GIS data will be shared with other state and federal resource management agencies, state colleges and universities, and made available to the State Electronic Library and other information depositories as part of overall project (i.e.,

#CH-01) implementation. Pertinent information will also be provided to the overall project website as it is developed. In addition, work program progress will be publicized through the USFWS' Accomplishment Reporting System and its Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

VIII. LOCATION:

All LCMR-funded project activity was conducted in Project Areas 3, 7, 8, and 10. USFWS match-funded projects could be conducted within any of the 11 LCMR Project Areas. Site-specific tracts or units will be described by appropriate legal description or geographic coordinates when selected, and will be appended to this work program.

	Attachment A: Deliverable Products and Related Budget - LCMR Funds Only 2003 LCMR Project Biennial Budget Project Title: CH-01 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors, (2b) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
	<u>LCMR Funds Spent</u>		
	Year 1	Year 2	Total Amount Spent
PROJECT AREA 3			
Border Prairie			
Development	\$4,660	\$7,090.00	\$11,750.00
PROJECT AREA 7			
Alexandria Moraine			
Development	\$5,000	\$24,537.25	\$29,537.25
PROJECT AREA 8			
Big Woods North			
Development	\$2,050	-0-	\$2,050
PROJECT AREA 10			
Southern Lakes			
Development	\$5,000	\$21,658.95	\$26,658.95
TOTAL LCMR EXPENSE	\$16,710	\$53,286.20	\$69,996.20
BALANCE			\$3.80

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program