

SEP 21 2004

FINAL REPORT

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2001 PROJECT ABSTRACT
For the Period Ending June 30, 2004

TITLE: PROJECT SOS (SET OUT SEEDLINGS)
 PROJECT MANAGER: Thomas Glines, Regional Director
 ORGANIZATION: National Wild Turkey Federation
 ADDRESS: 13075 Linnet ST NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448
 FUND: Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 LEGAL CITATION: ML2001, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Sec. 14, Subd.04(e)

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APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 80,000

The NWTF initiated Project SOS in Minnesota to provide habitat for wild turkeys. As part of the LCMR grant process and being part of the Habitat Corridors Partnership, the NWTF accelerated its efforts to increase wild turkey habitat within its current range.

Local chapters were contacted to participate in the program to coordinate the private and public lands that were to be planted. They ordered the trees from local nurseries. Species that were native to Minnesota and those that would benefit turkeys, as well as other wildlife, were selected.

Once the trees were received, usually in the spring, the local chapters solicited local volunteers or landowners to provide the free labor to put the seedlings in the ground. This volunteer workforce allowed the chapters to purchase thousand of additional seedlings rather than pay for labor

We worked predominantly in four work areas; #3 Border Prairie, #6 Upper MN River, # 7 Alexandria Moraine, #10 Southern Lakes

The total cumulative effort put 138,770 trees and shrubs in the ground with PHASE I dollars with volunteer help. There were on average 100 trees per acre, netting 1,388 acres that were planted. NWTF biologists estimate that the acres directly impacted by the trees can be multiplied by 9 to obtain the real impact for wild turkeys. That would be 12,492 acres for wild turkeys and wildlife!

04e2i/4f

Date of Completion: June 30th, 2004
LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Work Program Approval: July 24th, 2001
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2004

LCMR Work Program 2001

Title: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Corridors – Set Out Seedlings (Project SOS) (2i). Projects under this segment will be concentrated in the following corridors: Area 3. Border Prairie, Area 6. Upper MN River, Area 7. Alexandria Moraine, Area 10. Southern Lakes

Project Manager: Tom Glines
Affiliation: National Wild Turkey Federation
Mailing Address: 13075 Linnet St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448
Telephone Number: 763-767-2717, fax 763-767-2220
Email: bosstom@comcast.net (New – November 03)
Web address: www.nwtf.org

Total Biennial Project Budget

LCMR Appropriation:	\$80,000	(Fiscal Year 2002: \$40,000	Fiscal Year 2003: \$40,000)
Total Spent	<u>\$80,000</u>		
Balance	\$ 0		

Legal Citation: 04(e) M.L. 2001, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 04(e) \$11,745,000 (Env. Trust Fund). 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. \$325,000 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, section 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. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

The impact of tree and shrub plantings will greatly increase the ability of the wild turkey to survive the severity of the Minnesota winter. Research has shown the wild turkey can withstand temperatures in excess of 40 degrees below zero for up to two weeks at length. However, the limiting factor could be the availability of natural food sources, such as the ones that we are planting. The are all recommended shrubs and trees that are native to Minnesota, but just may not currently exist in the areas that the wild turkey has been relocated to. Location of fruit and berry shrub plantings will be coordinated, if possible, with known wintering and roost sites of wild turkey.

The goal of the program is to help the populations of wild turkey to survive the winter in greater numbers to create more opportunity for Minnesota sportsmen/women to pursue, observe, and experience the gobble of the wild turkey in the spring.

Although more areas in the State have wild turkey populations, because of the limited funds we have identified the areas listed as key areas that have expanding turkey populations

Project completed by June 30th, 2003

All dollars spent on trees and shrubs

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY

Over the past three springs local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation worked with private landowners around their respective areas to enhance the wild turkey and wildlife habitat by plantings trees and shrubs.

They worked in the following project areas; #3, #6, #7, and #10.

The first year of the program they purchased the trees directly through the NWTF in South Carolina. Realizing they could do better for the dollar expended, they started purchasing the trees through local vendors the second year and did much better.

All trees purchased with LCMR dollars were planted by volunteer labor. This labor is not listed on this report, as to the dollar amount. But, is a huge part to this project having the scope that it does

Cummulative total: LCMR Dollars bought 138,770 trees and shrubs with PHASE I dollars planted by volunteer help on 1388 acres (average of 100 trees per acre). NWTF biologists estimate that the acres directly planted impact the surrounding area by 9, that would yield about 12,492 acres of wild turkey and wildlife habitat!

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

Operation SOS (Set Out Seedlings) began in 1997 as a Regional Project by the NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation) to address the needs of the wild turkey in the snow belt States; Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ontario, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Operation SOS is a tree-planting program with a goal to establish winter food sources for wild turkeys and other wildlife. A critical element for healthy turkey populations where snowfall depths exceed 12" for over 30 days. The trees and shrubs are planted on public and private lands. The species of trees include; northern red oak, northern hackberry, swamp white oak, cranberry, cottonwood, and green ash. Funding source comes from the National organization based in Edgefield, SC out of its National Projects account. This initiative will double the current impact of this program in the State of Minnesota. Labor to install the trees throughout the State comes from the local chapter system and its volunteer labor. The Minnesota Chapter system consists of 70 active chapters with over 15,000 members.

Trees ordered through the National Office usually arrive in early Spring in April, which is when they will be scheduled to be planted in the respective work areas. The will be planted by volunteers, which will also install Tubex tree shelters (for protection as they grow) and soil matting (to keep the competing grasses out).

Also used in this program with the volunteer help will be an in kind use of several tree planters that the Chapter System has already purchased for several Soil and Water Conservation Districts around the State.

Program goal is to enhance or impact over 3300 acres of wild turkey habitat.

Program Budget for biennium

	Personnel	Equipment	Development	Acquisition	Total
LCMR Appro.			\$80,000		\$80,000
NWTF Match			\$80,000		\$80,000
Total			\$160,000		\$160,000

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

Appropriation Category: Set Out Seedlings
Funding Level: \$80,000

The NWTF will use the LCMR funds of \$80,000 to contract with nurseries to provide the native trees and shrubs described in the project description. The local chapters and project manager will select and seek out the public and private lands to plant on. Volunteer labor will be used. And SWCD's may provide tree planters at no cost to assist in the plantings. NWTF has also committed \$80,000 in trees, shrubs and matting to double the scope of this project

VI. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SPENDING

A. Past Spending

In Minnesota, the local Chapter System has embraced the program since its inception in 1997 and has planted more and more trees each year of its existence. Trees planted in Minnesota and cost are as follows; 97 - 5,000 trees (\$20,000), 98 - 10,000 trees (\$40,000), 99 - 15,000 trees (\$60,000) and in year 2000 - 20,000 trees at a cost of \$80,000.

B. Current and Future Spending

Operation SOS (Set out Seedlings) is an ongoing project and there is no expected termination from the National Office. The Minnesota Chapter System plans to continue to support the program through volunteer help. As the Chapter System grows the NWTF's portion of the investment and dollars will increase.

VII. DISSEMINATION

Results will be disseminated by the Minnesota State Chapter of the NWTF and its Regional Staff based in Minnesota through its State Newsletter, National Publications, project completion reports, and be shared with other state and federal management agencies, and project web page as it is developed. We will participate when possible in larger dissemination and publicity efforts of the CH-01 partnership. Currently on the National Web page is an article that speaks of the LCMR dollars being put to use on the ground in this tree-planting project

**Attachment B -- Habitat Corridors Partnership PHASE I -- Individual Work Program Summary
Final Progress Report (for activities completed by June 30th, 2004)**

Activity (Eg; 2(a) Hides For Habitat)	Partner (Eg; MDHA)	LCMR Allocation	LCMR Expenditure	LCMR Balance	Proposed Accomplishments			Current LCMR Accomplishments			Other Funds Committed	Other Funds Expenditure	Other Funds Balance	Other Funds Acres	Other Funds Miles/ Shoreline	Other Funds Lakes Restored
					LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles/ Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored	LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles/ Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored						
(2i) Project SOS	NWTF	80,000	80,000.00	0				1388			80,000	34,890	45,110	128		

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

Final Progress Report - for work completed by June 30th, 2004

Work Program: Partner:	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.
PROJECT AREA 1												
Aspen Parklands												
PROJECT AREA 2												
Mississippi Headwaters												
PROJECT AREA 3												
Border Prairie	\$5,534.91			113			2428			32		
PROJECT AREA 4												
Central Lakes												
PROJECT AREA 6												
Upper Minnesota River	\$20,000			230			2428			32		
PROJECT AREA 7												
Alexandria Moraine	\$25,000.22			302			2428			32		
PROJECT AREA 10												
Southern Lakes	\$29,464.87			743			2428			32		

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