

Project Completion Date: June 4, 2004
LCMR Final Work Program Report

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$120,000.00
Amount Expended: \$120,000.00
Balance: 0

Legal Citation: ML 2001, First Special Session, Chap. 2, Sec. 14, Subdivision 4(e)

Appropriation Language: 4(e) 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, Ducks Unlimited, 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

2001 Project Abstract

For the period ending June 30, 2004

TITLE: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors – #CH01
Conservation Reserve Program -- CP23 Initiative (3f) and (2L)
Project Areas: #1 – Aspen Parklands; #3 – Border Prairie; #7 – Alexandria Moraine; and #10 – Southern Lakes.

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FUND: Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2001, First Special Session, Chap. 2, Sec. 14, Subdivision 4(e)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$120,000.00

This project was designed to encourage landowners enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to implement a specific CRP practice known as CP23, which involves restoring drained wetlands and establishment of adjacent upland grass cover. These restorations improve the ability of Conservation Reserve Program lands to stop soil loss, improve water quality, and increase wildlife habitat benefits. These improvements do require technical expertise to determine how to restore habitat, and money to do the restoration. This project, coined the CP23 Initiative, provided both technical advice and restoration dollars. The LCMR funding that was used through this work program, in the original amount of \$100,000.00, was used to pay 25% cost share for wetland restoration projects enrolled under the CP23 practice in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). USDA covered the other 75% cost share for the wetland restoration costs. Matching efforts from the USFWS brought \$125,000 of in-kind services for equipment and technical services to facilitate the program. The CRP CP23 practice assisted landowners in the restoration of wetland resources on property enrolled in the less than perpetual contract through the Conservation Reserve Program. This improved the productivity of Conservation Reserve Program acreage during the term of the contract, and should encourage many landowners to retain the property in productive habitat after the expiration of their contract. When accepting a CP23 project the landowner had to extend enrollment in CRP from 10 years to 15 years. It was originally estimated that there were 350 drained wetland sites covering more than 950 wetland acres to be restored, and have upland grass cover established around them, through the assistance of this work program.

The CP23 Initiative was completed on November 5, 2003. In summary, from July 24, 2001 through November 5, 2003, a total of 590 wetland sites and 4,056 wetland acres were restored expending \$85,439.13 of LCMR grant dollars within LCMR Project Areas 1, 7 and 10, through the CP23 Initiative.

The remainder of the \$100,000.00 LCMR funds (\$14,560.87) was approved by the LCMR Commission on November 18, 2003, to be expended on wetland restoration projects in association with the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) on the Glacial Ridge Project in NW Minnesota (LCMR Project Area 1). The USFWS worked with The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete these wetland restoration projects. On January 26, 2004, an additional \$20,000.00 was reallocated to this work program from other Phase I work program funds. That \$20,000.00 was used by the USFWS, TNC and NRCS to purchase native prairie grass seed for prairie restoration, and for the restoration of additional wetlands on the Glacial Ridge Project. On the Glacial Ridge Project, between November 5, 2003 and June 1, 2004, 479.5 wetland acres (22 wetland sites) and 320 upland acres (4 native prairie upland sites) were restored expending \$34,560.87 of LCMR grant dollars on these projects, in association with the Wetland Reserve Program.

To summarize, the \$120,000.00 LCMR grant funds used through this work program, were expended in full on wetland and upland restorations within LCMR Project Areas 1, 7 and 10, through the CP23 Initiative and the Glacial Ridge Project. A grand total of 4,535.5 wetland acres and 320 upland acres were restored.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: CP23 Accomplishments tracked by Project Area.

Project Area #1 (Aspen Parklands)

LCMR funding expended in Project Area 1 from July 24, 2001 through June 1, 2004:
\$81,820.40

Projects Completed: 162
Wetland Sites Restored: 569
Wetland Acres Restored: 3,995.6

These restored wetlands are further enhanced by their location within approximately 23,709.2 acres of upland (primarily grass) cover as part of the CRP contract enrollment.

Project Area #7 (Alexandria Moraine)

LCMR funding expended in Project Area 7 from July 24, 2001 through June 1, 2004:
\$1,877.25

Projects Completed: 4
Wetland Sites Restored: 12
Wetland Acres Restored: 27.9

These restored wetlands are further enhanced by their location within approximately 306 acres of upland (primarily grass) cover as part of the CRP contract enrollment.

Project Area #10 (Southern Lakes)

LCMR funding expended in Project Area 10 from July 24, 2001 through June 1, 2004:
\$1,741.48

Projects Completed: 5
Wetland Sites Restored: 9
Wetland Acres Restored: 32.5

These restored wetlands are further enhanced by their location within approximately 123 acres of upland (primarily grass) cover as part of the CRP contract enrollment.

Total: 4,056 wetland acres were restored and \$85,439.13 of LCMR funding was expended from July 24, 2001 through November 5, 2003, on the CP23 Initiative within LCMR Project Areas 1, 7 and 10.

Result 2: Wetland Reserve Program wetland and upland restoration project accomplishments completed on the Glacial Ridge Project.

Glacial Ridge Project (LCMR Project Area 1)

LCMR funding expended in Project Area 1 from November 5, 2003 through June 1, 2004: \$34,560.87

Wetland Projects Completed:	5
Wetland Sites Restored:	22
Wetland Acres Restored:	479.5
Upland Projects Completed:	1
Upland Sites Restored:	4
Upland Acres Restored:	320

Total: 479.5 wetland acres and 320 upland acres were restored and \$34,560.87 of LCMR funding was expended from November 5, 2003 through June 1, 2004, on the Glacial Ridge Project within LCMR Project Area 1.

Grand Total for Results 1 and 2: 4,535.5 wetland acres and 320 native prairie upland acres restored between July 24, 2001 and June 1, 2004, expending \$120,000.00 of LCMR grant dollars within LCMR Project Areas 1, 7 and 10.

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

**Appropriation Category: Conservation Reserve Program -- CP23 Initiative
Funding Level: \$120,000**

Program Budget (In thousands)

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Development</u>	<u>Acquisition</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
LCMR	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	0	\$0	\$120,000
TOTAL			\$120,000			\$120,000

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING

MWA, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources have cooperated in cost-sharing wetland and grassland restoration projects.

VII. DISSEMINATION

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Department of Agriculture (the CP23 program lead agency) will develop initial information and inform the public about the opportunities. Periodic progress reports and pertinent GIS data will be shared.

The USFWS will also publicize the activities of this work program in the USFWS Accomplishment Reporting System. This information is available to the public at USFWS Great Lakes-Big Rivers Regional website at <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

VIII. LOCATION

All project activity will be conducted in Project Areas 1, 3, 7 and 10.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted to LCMR not later than May 31, 2002; November 30, 2002; March 30, 2003; and November 30, 2003. A final work program report will be submitted by June 30, 2004, or a mutually agreed time thereafter when all funds are expended under terms of the appropriation authorization.

X. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Not applicable

Attachment A: Deliverable Products and Related Budget – LCMR Funds Only
2001 LCMR Project Biennial Budget
Project Title: CH-01 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors
Conservation Reserve Program – CP-23 Initiative (3f) Project Areas 1, 3, 7, and 10
Project Manager: Bill Becker
LCMR Requested Dollars: \$120,000

2001 LCMR Budget	Result 1 CP23 Expenditures (Nov.5, 2003)	Result 2 Wetland/Upland Restoration Glacial Ridge Expenditures
Budgeted Amount	\$85,439.13	\$34,560.87
BUDGET ITEM		
Development		
1) Project Area 1 Aspen Parklands	81,820.40	34,560.87
3) Project Area 3 Border Prairie	0	
7) Project Area 7 Alexandria Moraine	1,877.25	
10) Project Area 10 Southern Lakes	1,741.48	
Total LCMR Expense	85,439.13	34,560.87

Attachment B

LCMR Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors (CH-01)
 Progress Report for CP-23 Initiative Activities
 July 24, 2001 – June 1, 2004

	<u>Project Area 1</u>	<u>Project Area 3</u>	<u>Project Area 7</u>	<u>Project Area 10</u>
	<u>LCMR Funding</u>	<u>LCMR Funding</u>	<u>LCMR Funding</u>	<u>LCMR Funding</u>
Projects Completed	162	0	4	5
Wetland Sites Restored	569	0	12	9
Wetland Acres Restored	3,995.6	0	27.9	32.5
Expenditures	\$81,820.40	\$0	\$1,877.25	\$1,741.48

<u>Summary for LCMR (3f) – CP23 Initiative</u>	<u>Summary for LCMR (3f) – Glacial Ridge Project</u>	<u>Summary for Other Funds (MWA General Funds)</u>
LCMR Funding Spent: \$85,439.13	LCMR Funding Spent: \$34,560.87	(Funds Spent on CP23 projects outside of LCMR PA's)
Projects Completed: 171	Wetland Projects Completed: 5	MWA General Funds Spent: \$43,108.34
Wetland Sites Restored: 590	Wetland Sites Restored: 22	Projects Completed: 110
Wetland Acres Restored: 4,056.0	Wetland Acres Restored: 479.5	Wetland Sites Restored: 351
	Upland Projects Completed: 1	Wetland Acres Restored: 2,277.2
	Upland Sites Restored: 4	
	Upland Acres Restored: 320	

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

June 1, 2004 Final Report

(3f)CRP-CP23 Initiative, (2L)Glacial Ridge Project MNDNR	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 - CP23	\$ 81,820.40			4,056		590 sites						
Glacial Ridge Project	\$ 34,560.87			800		26 sites						
PROJECT AREA 2												
Mississippi Headwaters												
PROJECT AREA 3												
Border Prairie												
PROJECT AREA 4												
Central Lakes												
PROJECT AREA 5												
Lower St. Louis River												
PROJECT AREA 6												
Upper Minnesota River												
PROJECT AREA 7												
Alexandria Moraine	\$ 1,877.25			28		12 sites						
PROJECT AREA 8												
Big Woods - North												
PROJECT AREA 9												
Des Moines River Valley												
PROJECT AREA 10												
Southern Lakes	\$ 1,741.48			33		9 sites						
PROJECT AREA 11												
Mississippi Bluff Lands												
	\$ 120,000.00	0					\$ -	0	0			\$ -