

OCT 29 2004

2001 PROJECT ABSTRACT

For the Period Ending June 30, 2004

TITLE: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors — Shorelands Protection Program (3a)

PROJECT MANAGER: Jane Prohaska, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust

ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West,
St. Paul, MN 55114

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.mnland.org

FUND: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$900,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

Through its Shorelands Protection Program, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on lands that border or contain critical riparian habitats -- specially crafting land use restrictions for each parcel of land to protect its unique shoreline features from future uses that could damage its important habitat values.

The Land Trust completed 27 conservation easements in 6 identified project areas around the State. See the attached map.

Collectively, these easements protect more than 2,847 acres of land, including 97,000 feet of shoreline. 5 easements were purchased -- each at a deeply discounted price. The remaining 22 were donated. The known value of these easements exceeds \$3,977,600 with the donated value well over \$3,608,100. The cost to the State to complete these easements through this grant was just over \$316 per acre, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of protecting land with conservation easements.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline reports for each easement, documenting the status of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligation, the Land Trust also dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

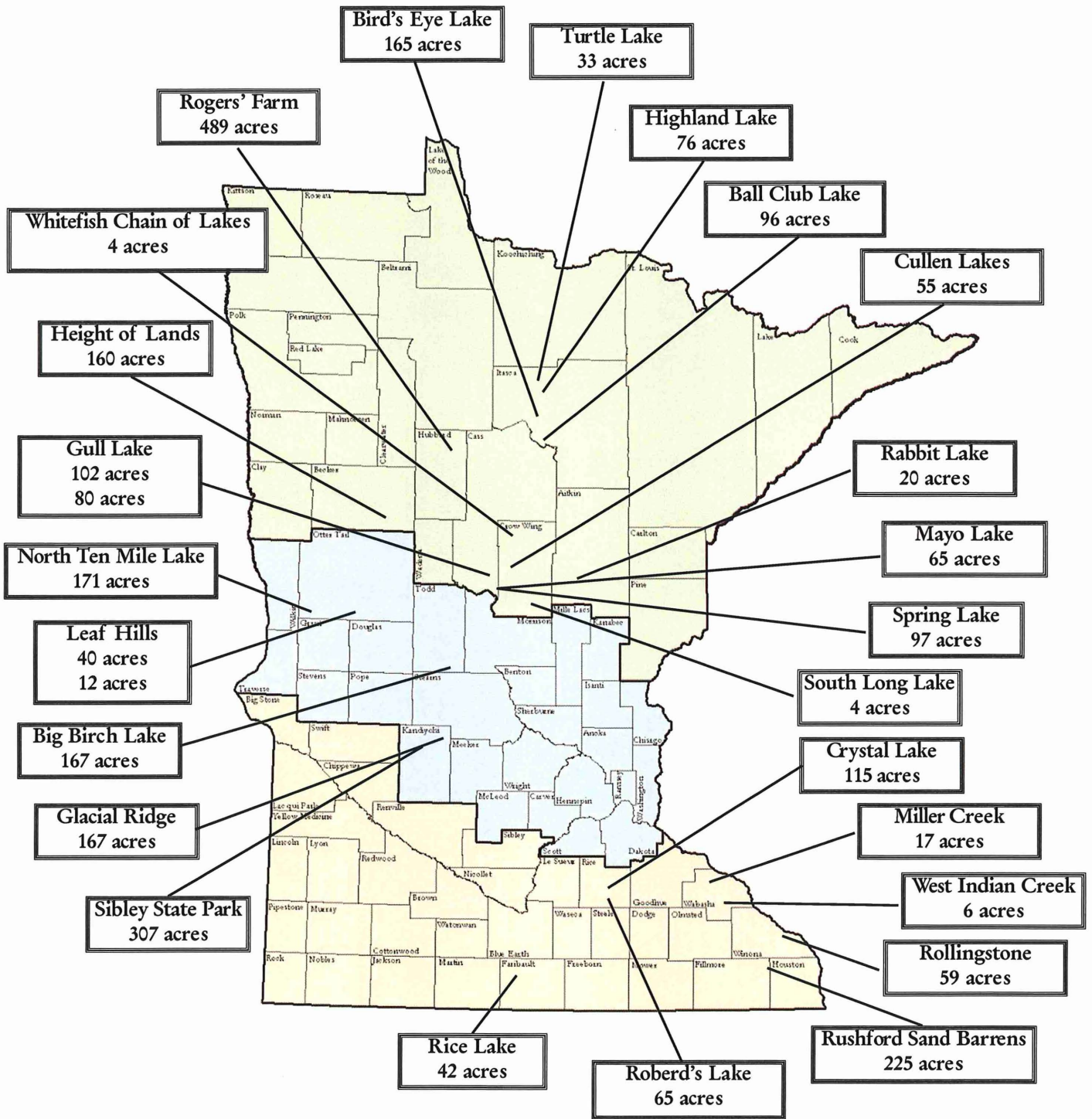
PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

With each project, the Minnesota Land Trust learned more about when conservation easements are effective protection tools, how to draft easements more effectively, and how to better manage an easement stewardship program that will ensure the effectiveness of each easement over time. Through the Habitat Corridors Partnership, the Land Trust has been able to use its increased knowledge to help others learn more about easements and easement programs. This has triggered an understanding that more formal presentations or programs on this topic are needed.

The Land Trust also disseminated information about this particular project and its results through press releases written for each completed project, through our newsletter and on our web site.

Minnesota Land Trust

L C M R Funded Habitat Corridors Partnership Project - Phase I



July 2004

June 30, 2004
LCMR Final Work Program Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors — Shoreline Protection Program (3a)

Projects were completed in the following Project Areas:

- 2 - Mississippi Headwaters
- 3 - Border Prairie
- 4 - Central Lakes
- 7 - Alexandria Moraine
- 10 - Southern Lakes
- 11 - Mississippi Bluff Lands

Project Manager: Jane Prohaska, Executive Director
Address: Minnesota Land Trust
2356 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55114
Telephone Number: 651-647-9590
Fax Number: 651-647-9769
E-mail: jprohaska@mnland.org
Web Page Address: www.mnland.org

Total Biennial Project Budget:
\$ LCMR Appropriation: \$900,000
\$ Amount Spent: \$900,000
\$ Balance: \$0

Legal Citation: ML 2001, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 4(e) Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors.

Appropriation Language: 04(e) Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors

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 Hunter's Association, Ducks Unlimited, 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 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 a 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. 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:

Through its Shorelands Protection Program, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners to secure permanent conservation easements on lands that border or contain critical riparian habitats -- specially crafting land use restrictions for each parcel of land to protect its unique shoreline features from future uses that could damage its important habitat values.

The Land Trust completed 27 conservation easements in 6 identified project areas around the State. See the attached map.

Collectively, these easements protect more than 2,847 acres of land, including 97,000 feet of shoreline. 5 easements were purchased -- each at a deeply discounted price. The remaining 22 were donated. The known value of these easements exceeds \$3,977,600 with the donated value well over \$3,608,100. The cost to the State to complete these easements through this grant was just over \$316 per acre, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of protecting land with conservation easements.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline reports for each easement, documenting the status of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligation, the Land Trust also dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

With each project, the Minnesota Land Trust learned more about when conservation easements are effective protection tools, how to draft easements more effectively, and how to better manage an easement stewardship program that will ensure the effectiveness of each easement over time. Through the Habitat Corridors Partnership, the Land Trust has been able to use its increased knowledge to help others learn more about easements and easement programs. This has triggered an understanding that more formal presentations or programs on this topic are needed.

The Land Trust also disseminated information about this particular project and its results through press releases written for each completed project, through our newsletter and on our web site.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

The Minnesota Land Trust was extremely pleased with the work it was able to complete through the first phase of its Shorelands Protection Program. Overall, the Land Trust exceeded its project goals for this project, protecting 347 acres more than the initial goal of 2500 acres.

However, with an average project size of just over 100 acres, it required completing more separate conservation easements than originally anticipated. This ultimately required more time to complete the projects requiring that more funding from the grant be directed for personnel.

With more separate easements to monitor in the future this required that more funding from the grant be directed toward long-term stewardship on these easements as well.

The Land Trust was very successful in working with landowners financially able and willing to donate an easement over their land, purchasing only a few easements and even those were purchased at a discount. This resulted in a gift value for these donations that undoubtedly exceeds \$4,000,000. NOTE: Easement values are not known for all of the donated easements. The Land Trust obtained appraisals only for the purchased easements and knows of gifts values only when a landowner takes a tax deduction for the value of the easement.

It was clear that the Land Trust's ability to use funds from this grant to cover other project costs, including stewardship, made many of these donations possible when they would not otherwise have been so. It also seemed to be a pattern that landowners living and working on their land often needed financial incentives to be able to protect their lands with an easement.

The conservation easements accepted by the Minnesota Land Trust under this grant are generally located on the attached map referred to above. These projects are also summarized on the attached chart that includes the following information:

- Location of the project by Project Area.
- Minnesota Land Trust site and track name for the project.
- County in which the land is located and the easement recorded, including the document number assigned upon recording.
- Number of acres and shoreline feet protected.
- Water body involved.
- Date the project was completed.
- Value of the easement, if known.
- Purchase price for any purchased easements.
- Amount of stewardship funding committed for future monitoring and enforcement.

Project and grant activity by Project Area is summarized below

Result 1: Project Area 2 (Mississippi Headwaters)

LCMR Budget: \$119,995
Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 700 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Results Status:

June 30, 2004:

Projects completed: 5
Acres protected: 861
Shoreline protected: 21,100 feet

Result 2: Project Area 3 (Border Prairie)

LCMR Budget: \$144,178

Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 300 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Results Status:

June 30, 2004

Projects completed: 4

Acres protected: 382

Shoreline protected: 21,600 feet

Result 3: Project Area 4 (Central Lakes)

LCMR Budget: 143,929

Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 800 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Results Status:

June 30, 2004

Projects completed: 8

Acres protected: 434

Shoreline protected: 21,500 feet

Result 4: Project Area 7 (Alexandria Moraine)

LCMR Budget: \$67,832

Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 300 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Results Status:

June 30, 2004

Projects completed: 3

Acres protected: 639

Shoreline protected: 21,000 feet

Result 5: Project Area 8 (Big Woods North)

LCMR Budget: \$466
Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 0 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Result Status:

June 30, 2004

No projects were completed in this project area.

Result 6: Project Area 10 (Southern Lakes)

LCMR Budget: \$295,008
Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 100 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Results Status:

June 30, 2004

Projects completed: 3
Acres protected: 229
Shoreline protected: 7,300 feet

Result 7: Project Area 11 (Mississippi Bluff Lands)

LCMR Budget: \$128,592
Balance: \$0

Results:

Protect up to 300 acres of land surrounding critical riparian habitat.

Completion Date: June 30, 2004

Result Status:

June 30, 2004

Projects completed: 4
Acres protected: 302
Shoreline protected: 4,600 feet

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel:	\$121,700
All Results: Local Automobile Mileage:	\$ 8,000
All Results: Contracts professional:	\$ 27,000
All Results: Supplies:	\$ 6,500
All Results: Easement Stewardship:	\$288,500
All Results: Easement Acquisition:	\$448,300
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$900,000

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

- A. Past Spending:** The Minnesota Land Trust has expended substantial financial resources to secure conservation easements throughout the state, including numerous projects throughout three Project Areas in which we will be working. In addition, we have had programs and projects funded through Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources in the past. However, we have not had a specifically targeted shoreline protection initiative in the past with funding available for easement acquisition.
- B. Current and Future Spending:** This funding provided the Land Trust with an opportunity to implement its strategic plan of targeting our protection efforts and spreading our conservation activities around the state. Contacts made and work completed in this project have set the stage for additional work in the identified project areas under phases 2 and 3 of the project.
- C. Project Partners:** The Land Trust worked with a number of other Habitat Corridors Partnership organizations in coordinating our protection efforts under this project. Connections made through the partnership have already made it easier to work with a number of partner organizations in phases 2 and 3 of this project and on other conservation initiatives.
- D. Time:** The project was completed by June 30, 2004.

VII. DISSEMINATION

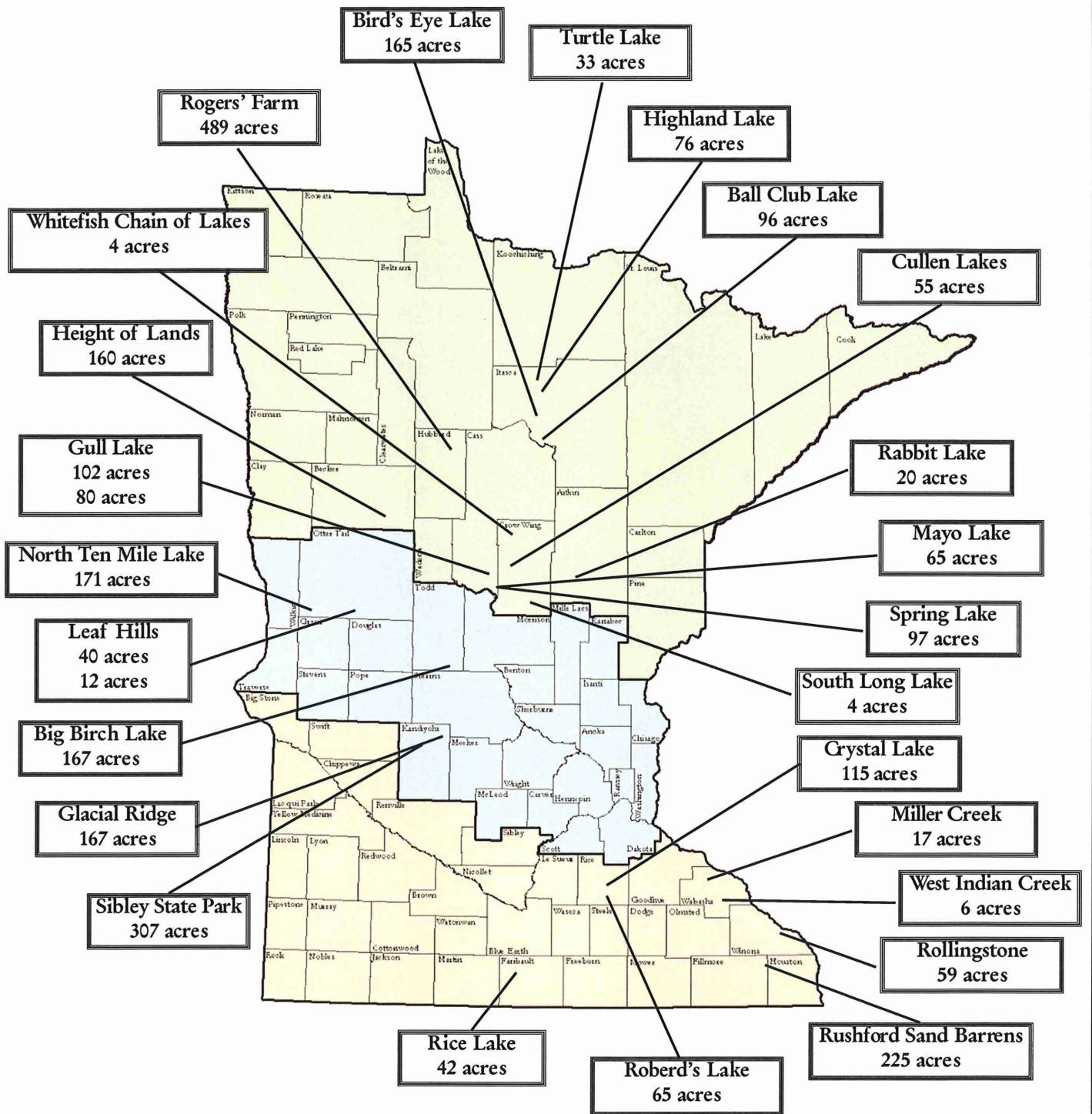
Results will be disseminated by the Land Trust in our publications and web page (www.mnland.org). We will also participate when possible in larger dissemination and publicity efforts of the CH-01 partnership.

VIII. LOCATION

The Minnesota Land Trust completed projects in the following project areas: Project Area 2 (Mississippi Headwaters), Project Area 3 (Border Prairie), Project Area 4 (Central Lakes), Project Area 7 (Alexandria Moraine), 10 Project Area (Southern Lakes), and 11 Project Area (Mississippi Bluff Lands).

Minnesota Land Trust

LCMR Funded Habitat Corridors Partnership Project - Phase I



July 2004

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LCMR Funded Habitat Corridors Partnership Project - Phase I
Completed Project List
As of June 30, 2004

PROJECT AREA 2: MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS

<u>Site</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Water body</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Shoreline Feet</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Stewardship \$ committed</u>	<u>Acquisition \$ spent</u>	<u>Easement Value</u>
Bird's Eye Lake	Berquist	Bird's Eye Land, Sand Lake	166	4000	Itasca Document # 568321	12/03	\$10,000		\$312,000
Rogers Farm	Rogers	Bugashing Creek, wetlands	490	6000	Hubbard Document # 295990	1/04	\$12,000		unknown
Highland Lake	Muir	Highland Lake	76	2800	Itasca Document # 550069	12/02	13,000		\$303,000
Turtle Lake	Frahm	Turtle Lake	33	2700	Itasca Document # 551126	12/02	\$16,000		\$544,000
Ball Club Lake	Friedlieb	Ball Club Lake	96	5600	Itasca Document # 567845	1/04	\$11,000		unknown
Projects completed = 5 Acres Protected=861 (goal = 700)				Shoreline protected = 21,100 feet		Easement Value=\$1,159,000 Easement Gift Value=\$1,159,000			

PROJECT AREA 3: BORDER PRAIRIE

<u>Site</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Water body</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Shoreline Feet</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Stewardship \$ committed</u>	<u>Acquisition \$ spent</u>	<u>Easement Value</u>
N. Ten Mile Lake	Dalton	North Ten Mile Lake	170	18,300	Otter Tail Document # 924939	3/03	\$10,000	\$85,000	\$382,000
Height of Lands	Oelfke	wetlands	160	300	Becker Document # 492543	2/03	\$11,000		unknown
Leaf Hills	Cullen	wetlands	40	3000	Otter Tail Document # 934534	7/03	\$13,000		\$127,800
Leaf Hills	Cullen 2		12		Ottertail Document # 946476	12/03	included above		\$38,800
Projects completed = 4 Acres Protected = 382 (goal = 300)				Shoreline protected = 21,600 feet		Easement Value=\$548,600 Easement Gift Value= \$463,600			

PROJECT AREA 4: CENTRAL LAKES

<u>Site</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Water body</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Shoreline Feet</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Stewardship \$ committed</u>	<u>Acquisition \$ spent</u>	<u>Easement Value</u>
Whitefish Lakes	Drey	Rush Lake	4	800	Crow Wing Document # 608106	6/02	11,000		unknown
Cullen Lakes	Rehwaldt	Upper Cullen Lake	55	2800	Crow Wing Document # 621369	11/02	10,000		unknown
Gull Lake	Wheeler	wetlands	102	3000	Cass Document # 461191	12/02	12,000		\$247,000
Gull Lake	City of Lake Shore	Stony Brook	80	3200	Cass Document # 470190	6/03	10,000		unknown
Rabbit Lake	Otto	Rabbit Lake	27	2200	Aitkin Document # 353393	10/03	13,000		\$98,000
S. Long Lake	Cedarleaf	Long Lake	4	2700	Crow Wing Document # 651070	10/03	10,000		unknown
Mayo Lake	O'Shaughnessy	Mayo Lake	65	4600	Cass/Crow Wing Document #A000486740 Document #669461	6/04	\$10,000		unknown
Spring Lake	O'Shaughnessy	wetlands,stream	97	2200	Cass Document #A000486739	6/04	\$7,500		unknown

Projects completed = 8 Acres Protected=434 (goal = 800) Shoreline Protected=21,500 feet Easement Value =\$345,000 Easement Gift Value = \$345,000

PROJECT AREA 7: ALEXANDRIA MORAIN

<u>Site</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Water body</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Shoreline Feet</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Stewardship \$ committed</u>	<u>Acquisition \$ spent</u>	<u>Easement Value</u>
Glacial Ridge	JJ Paffrath	Prairie potholes	166	2,900	Kandiyohi Document # 493898	12/02	\$12,000		\$505,000
Sibley State Park	Strand	.3 small lakes	306	12,900	Kandiyohi Document # 504875	8/03	\$13,000		476,000
Big Birch Lake	Kutter	Big Birch Lake	167	5,200	Todd Document # 426834	5/04	\$13,000		unknown

Projects completed = 3 Acres Protected = 639 (goal = 300) Shoreline protected = 21,000 feet Easement Value=\$981,000/ Easement Gift Value =\$981,000

PROJECT AREA 10: SOUTHERN LAKES

Site	Tract	Water body	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Completion date	Stewardship \$ committed	Acquisition \$ spent	Easement Value
Roberds Lake	Huston 2	Roberds Lake	65	1400	Rice	4/03	\$10,000	\$140,000	\$183,000
Rice Lake	Jones	Rice Lake	42	3900	Faribault	12/03	\$7,500	\$70,000	\$84,000
Crystal Lake	Lewis	Crystal Lake	122	2000	Rice	3/04	\$14,000	\$25,000	\$496,000

Projects Completed = 3 Acres Protected = 229 (goal = 100) Shoreline Protected=7300 feet Easement Value=\$763,00
Easement Gift Value=\$528,000

PROJECT AREA 11: MISSISSIPPI BLUFF LANDS

Site	Tract	Water body	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Completion date	Stewardship \$ committed	Acquisition \$ spent	Easement Value
Miller Creek	Bremer	Miller Creek	17	1800	Wabasha	6/03	\$12,000		\$94,500
Rollingstone	Speltz	Speltz Creek	59	200	Winona	12/03	\$ 7,500		limited
Rushford Sand Barrens	Peterson	Root River	220	1200	Fillmore	2/04	\$13,000	\$50,000	\$87,000
West Indian Creek	McMillin	West Indian Creek	6	1400	Wabasha	4/04	\$ 7,000		unknown

Projects Completed = 4 Acres Protected = 302 (goal = 300) Shoreline protected = 4600 feet Easement Value=\$181,000
Easement Gift Value=\$131,500

TOTALS: Projects initiated = 40
Projects Completed = 27
Acres Protected =2847 (goal = 2500)
Shoreline Protected = 97,100 feet
Know Conservation Easement Value =\$3,977,600
Known Conservation Easement Gift Value =\$3,608,100
LCMR funds spent = \$900,000

ATTACHMENT A

This attachment reflects the distribution of funds between budget categories and the distribution of budgeted funds among project areas as of June 30,2004.

Project Title: Restoring Minnesota’s Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors:
Shoreline Protection Program (Minnesota Land Trust)

Project Number: CH-01

LCMR Recommended Funding: \$900,000

Budget Item	Results							CURRENT APPROVED BUDGET TOTAL
	Result 1 (Area 2) Budget	Result 2 (Area 3) Budget	Result 3 (Area 4) Budget	Result 4 (Area 7) Budget	Result 5 (Area 8) Budget	Result 6 (Area 10) Budget	Result 7 (Area 11) Budget	
<u>Personnel: wages & benefits</u>	33,910	8,303	31,947	8,848	406	15,097	23,189	121,700
<u>Local automobile mileage</u>	1,893	558	2,486	409	0	968	1,686	8,000
<u>Contracts: professional</u>	5,305	2,808	7,303	4,485	60	2,940	4,099	27,000
<u>Supplies (phone, postage, etc.)</u>	2,683	180	1854	190	0	765	828	6,500
<u>Easement Stewardship</u>	62,000	34,000	83,500	38,000	0	31,500	39,500	288,500
<u>Easement Acquisition</u>	14,204	98,329	16,839	15,900	0	243,738	59,290	448,300
<u>COLUMN TOTAL</u>	119,995	144,178	143,929	67,832	466	295,008	128,592	900,000