

FINAL REPORT

SEP 21 2004

k2001 PROJECT ABSTRACT
For the Period Ending June 30, 2004

JRV _____
SAT _____
SVM _____
YF _____
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TITLE: MN SUPER FUND (LAND ACQUISITION)
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: \$ 60,000

Program manager and local chapters will identify tracts of lands to be purchased based on their value for wildlife and wild turkeys. Criteria for selection to be purchased will be their impact on resident flocks of wild turkeys and their use as brooding, bugging, nesting, and roost sites. Local DNR Area Wildlife Managers will also be asked in the project areas to help identify these areas.

We have identified and purchase two pieces of outstanding wild turkey and wildlife lands that are turned over to the Department of Natural Resources to be managed as Wildlife Management Areas.

We purchased 160 acres in Otter Tail County that unlocked 2462 acres of existing public land. This piece (the Floyd Aldrich Property) is on the southwest corner of the Elmo Wildlife Management Area. It is rolling hardwoods with a few sloughs thrown in. This land provides excellent turkey, deer, and waterfowl habitat. This acquisition has been closed on and fee title is now in the hands of the DNR. NWTF local chapters purchased the equivalent of 45.7 acres, NWTF LCMR funds purchased 22.9 acres, Ottertail Rod & Gun club purchased 11.4 acres, NWTF Super Fund purchased 22.9 acres and 57.1 acres was purchased with RIM matching funds.

Working together with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association we jointly acquired an 80 acre piece in the heart of turkey country in Houston County. This property boasts hardwood ridges with many fingers and draws that are ideal for turkeys and white-tailed deer. The cooperative effort also enlisted the help of local chapters of the NWTF and MDHA to fund the appraisal, real estate taxes, and in-kind support from a local title company for title opinion. Located in Chisholm Valley which drains into the Root River, the WMA is now going to be called Chisholm Valley WMA. MDHA, through LCMR funds, purchased the equivalent of 59.9 acres, NWTF LCMR funds purchased 19.6 acres, NWTF Super Fund purchased 1.5 acres, and the local NWTF chapters paid \$600 for the appraisal.

Both of these pieces, totaling 240 acres, will provide wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, and other wildlife habitat, while giving Minnesota Sportsmen a place to recreate into perpetuity!

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 – MN NWTF Super Fund (Land Acquisition) (4f). Projects under this segment will be concentrated in the following corridors: Area 3. Border Prairie, Area 7. Alexandria Moraine, Area 8 Big Woods North, Area 10. Southern Lakes, Area 11 Mississippi Blufflands

Project Manager: Tom Glines
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Total Biennial Project Budget

LCMR Appropriation: \$60,000 (Fiscal Year 2002: \$30,000 Fiscal Year 2003: \$30,000)
Total Spent \$60,000
Balance \$ 0

Legal Citation: 04(e) M.L. 2001, First Special Session, 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:

Proceeds from the local chapters and banquets of the Minnesota Chapter System of the NWTF are channeled into what we call the Minnesota Super Fund. This fund is administered by the National Office of the NWTF in Edgefield, SC. But, the funds within the account are distributed by the Minnesota Chapter of the NWTF's Board of Directors. We have an 18 member Board that is comprised of volunteers from around the State. They meet quarterly to review projects received from around the State consisting of land acquisition, habitat enhancement, youth activities, women's activities, and others. Most projects involving land acquisition involve several other partners; i.e. local sportsmen's clubs, major corporate donors, and individuals. Thereby stretching the dollars that we raise. Every State Chapter of the NWTF has a Super Fund to be used for their individual State. Lands purchased are turned over to the DNR to be managed as WMA's

Program manager and local chapters will identify tracts of lands to be purchased based on their value for wildlife and wild turkeys. Criteria for selection to be purchased will be their impact on resident flocks of

wild turkeys and their use as brooding, bugging, nesting, and roost sites. Local DNR Area Wildlife Managers will also be asked in the project areas to help identify these areas. Coordination will be made with other CH-01 partners to link corridors.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY

We have identified and purchase two pieces of outstanding wild turkey and wildlife lands that are turned over to the Department of Natural Resources to be managed as Wildlife Management Areas.

Area #3 Border Prairie

We purchased 160 acres in Otter Tail County that unlocked 2462 acres of existing public land. This piece (the Floyd Aldrich Property) is on the southwest corner of the Elmo Wildlife Management Area. It is rolling hardwoods with a few sloughs thrown in. The LCMR money used was \$20,000, with \$20,000 from the State Super Fund and \$20,000 from the local Chapter. This land provides excellent turkey, deer, and waterfowl habitat. This acquisition has been closed on and fee title is now in the hands of the DNR. Land is located in Ottertail County Sections 5 and 8 of Elmo Township (T132N - R37W)

Area #11 Mississippi Blufflands

Working together with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association we jointly acquired an 80 acre piece in the heart of turkey country in Houston County. This property boasts hardwood ridges with many fingers and draws that are ideal for turkeys and white-tailed deer. Area Wildlife Manager, Gary Nelson came to us to acquire this gem because the sellers were ready to go and wanted a quick sale. The cooperative effort also enlisted the help of local chapters of the NWTF and MDHA to fund the appraisal, real estate taxes, and in-kind support from a local title company for title opinion. Located in Chisholm Valley which drains into the Root River, the WMA is now going to be called Chisholm Valley WMA.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

Program goal is to protect 500 acres of wildlife habitat purchased from willing sellers

Program Budget for biennium

	Personnel	Equipment	Development	Acquisition	Total
LCMR Appro.				\$60,000	\$60,000
NWTF dollars				\$64,600	\$64,600
Total				\$124,600	\$124,600

Total land purchased 240 acres

Project completed by June 30th, 2004

Result 1: Area #3 Border Prairie Approp: \$20,000 Spent: \$20,000 Balance: \$ 0

Purchase of 160 acres Floyd Aldrich Property to be added to the Elmo WMA

Dollar amount	Source	Prorated acreage
\$40,000	MN NWTF Local Chapters	45.7
\$20,000	MN NWTF Super Fund	22.9
\$20,000	NWTF LCMR	22.9
\$10,000	Ottertail Rod & Gun Club	11.4
<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>RIM Matching funds</u>	<u>57.1</u>
\$140,000		160

Result 2: Area # 11 Mississippi Blufflands Approp: 40,000 Spent: \$40,000 Balance: \$ 0

Working in conjunction with Minnesota Deer Hunters Association we acquired 80 acres in Houston County. Land to be turned over to the DNR and managed as Chisholm Valley WMA.

Dollar Amount	Source	Prorated acreage
\$120,000	MDHA LCMR	58.9
\$ 40,000	NWTF LCMR	19.6
\$ 3,000	MN NWTF Super Fund	1.5
\$163,000		80

\$ 600 MN NWTF Local chapters appraisal

V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

Appropriation Category: Minnesota State Super Fund – Land Acquisition
Funding Level: \$60,000

The NWTF will use the LCMR funds of \$60,000 to acquire important wild turkey habitat to give to the DNR to establish and enlarge WMA's. This money will be matched with Minnesota State Super Fund Land Acquisition dollars. These lands will be purchased from willing sellers.

VI. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SPENDING

A. Past Spending

In Minnesota, the local Chapter System has over \$86,000 from the Super Fund from 1998-2000 to help acquire 1,492 acres. In 2001, 671 acres were acquired with \$72,500 of NWTF money.

B. Current and Future Spending

Local chapters are also finding sources of revenue for additional matching dollar and slotting them for land acquisition. So far in 2002, 114 acres have been acquired with \$10,000 of State Chapter money.

In regards to future spending of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in the Land Acquisition Account, I foresee that this account will continue to fund land acquisition into the future. And the amount of dollars earmarked for this type of project for public enjoyment will only increase as the chapter system grows.

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.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Progress reports for this work program will be submitted to LCMR on May 30, 2002; November 30, 2002; March 30, 2003; November 30, 2003. The final work program report will be submitted by June 30, 2004, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

**Attachment B -- Habitat Corridors Partnership PHASE I -- Individual Work Program Summary
Final Progress Report**

Activity (Eg: 2(a) Hides For Habitat) Partner (Eg: MDHA)	LCMR			Proposed Accomplishments			Current LCMR Accomplishments			Other Funds			Other Funds		
	Allocation	Expenditure	Balance	LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles/ Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored	LCMR Acres	LCMR Miles/ Shoreline	LCMR Lakes Restored	Committed	Expenditure	Balance	Acres	Miles/ Shoreline	Lakes Restored
4(f) MN Super Fund - Land Acquisit NWTF	60,000	60,000.00	0	500			125			60,000	64,600		115		

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 3												
Border Prairie	\$20,000.00	50					60,000	110				
PROJECT AREA 11												
Mississippi Bluff Lands	40,000	75					4,600	5				