

Program Title: **Metro Big Rivers Habitat**

**Request for Funding
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2011**

Program Title: **#20 Metro Big Rivers Habitat**

Date: **November 2, 2009**

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	Council Funding Request	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
Funds Requested (\$4,490,733)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$4,490,733	0	0	0

A. Summary

Along the **Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and tributaries**, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat program will protect and enhance wetlands, forests, prairies and habitat for fish, game and wildlife by acquiring conservation easements or fee title on 850 acres, and restoring at least 338 acres. A partnership of nonprofits - Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., and the Trust for Public Land – will expand, buffer, and improve selected wildlife refuges, scientific and natural areas, and habitat sanctuaries. It will collaborate with private and public landowners and apply existing conservation planning and land acquisition programs.

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners will address two high priority actions for the LSOHC, providing multiple conservation benefits including critical habitat for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation:

- **Protect and restore habitat corridors**, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers; and
- **Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna**, particularly in areas with high biological diversity located on one of the three Big Rivers or slightly upstream on a key tributary to one of the three Big Rivers.

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With years of conservation experience, and a strong conservation record as an ongoing program, Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners will accomplish key goals in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area, selecting sites based on science, readiness, urgency and best practices and contributing to a complex of restored and permanently protected wetlands, prairies and forests.

Habitat acquired and restored by the Metro Big Rivers partners will expand and improve public access to hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation, while leveraging other efforts and funds. Of the land targeted for Metro Big Rivers Habitat acquisition, 59% will be open to unlimited hunting and fishing and 24% will be open to limited hunting and fishing. Hunting and fishing will not be allowed on the balance (18%) because of the sensitive habitat type and proximity to population. Of the lands restored through this project, 30% will be open to unlimited hunting and fishing, 30% will be open to limited hunting and fishing and 24% will not be open because of the sensitive habitat type and proximity to population.

B. Background Information

1. What is the problem or opportunity being addressed?

The Problem:

The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan cites habitat loss and degradation as critical problems statewide. The State Wildlife Action Plan notes these problems in the specific ecological subsections here: Big Woods, Anoka Sand Plain, Mille Lacs Uplands, St. Paul – Baldwin Plains and Moraines, and Oak Savanna.

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat program has selected priority sites to address two critical challenges:

- These subsections include three of the four highest concentrations of species of greatest conservation need statewide, and host thousands of acres designated as areas of regional ecological significance. They face intense development pressure, particularly on sites of greatest habitat sensitivity like bluffs and shorelands. Acting quickly to protect and enhance habitat corridors and patches is urgent to achieve statewide conservation goals.
- These sites provide critical public access to habitat for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation close-to-home for many Minnesotans, and sustain habitat vital to migrating wildlife.

The Opportunity:

Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners can act efficiently and effectively to protect and restore habitat corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. The partners apply science-based regional analysis to identify priority habitat areas and many years of conservation experience. This partnership has succeeded in protecting and restoring habitat for years, leveraging private and state and other non-state public funding and other resources.

The projects that will be completed are time-sensitive and ready, sure to deliver habitat results of regional and statewide importance. We now have the opportunity to achieve

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conservation results in these high priority habitat areas, applying priority statewide habitat recommendations that achieve regional landscape goals.

2. What action will be taken?

Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners will acquire conservation easements or fee title on at least 850 acres and restore at least 338 acres of floodplain forest, wetland, oak savanna, and prairie habitat along the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and key tributaries. Current scientific principles inform specific priorities and activities by partners applying existing land protection expertise in established programs.

Following is a description of specific high-priority projects the partners have identified as immediate opportunities. We reference the state conservation plans and priorities in parentheses. Note that, with the grant funds requested, we will not complete all of these projects, but will achieve the acreage targets from among these projects.

In the **Minnesota River Habitat Corridor**, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat program will:

- **Add 500 acres of habitat to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge**, preventing fragmentation and degradation of high quality wildlife habitat and increasing public access for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-based recreation at one or more of the existing or new refuge areas: Blakely Unit in LeSueur, Scott and Sibley Counties; Jessenland Unit in Sibley County; San Francisco Unit in Carver County; and/or St. Lawrence Unit in Scott County. (“Key river reach” in Big Woods subsection, with high concentrations of species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), according to the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP))
- **Restore and enhance habitat quality for wildlife on the Refuge lands** by breaking drainage tile, constructing water control structures, making shallow scrapes, and planting wetland species; planting diverse, native prairie seed, mowing, and burning; and planting floodplain trees, removing invasive species and burning.
- **Protect 50 acres at Savage Fen / Teepee Hill Natural Area** on bluffland of the Minnesota River, adjacent to existing protected land and including calcareous fen and associated upland forest. (“Key habitats” identified in the Big Woods subsection of the SWAP)
- **Protect 20 acres at Pike Lake Natural Area** with lakeshore, wetland, and habitat for fish, game and wildlife. (“Key habitats” identified in the Big Woods subsection of the SWAP)
- **Remove invasive species from rare calcareous fens** on 60 acres in three Scientific and Natural Areas in Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties. (“Key habitat” in Big Woods subsection of SWAP, with a high concentration of SGCN)

In the **Mississippi River Habitat Corridor**, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat program will:

- **Purchase a conservation easement on 150 acres** of mesic prairie, floodplain forest, floodplain lakeshore, oak woodland and wetland adjacent to the Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area **on the Mississippi River**, at Macalester College’s Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, in partnership with the Dakota

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Farmland and Natural Area Program. (“key habitat” in Oak Savanna subsection of SWAP)

- **Restore and reconstruct Mississippi River floodplain forest** and enhance existing forest by removing invasive plants on 38 acres within the Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area.
- **Restore native prairie and oak savanna on Mississippi bluffs** at Indian Mounds and Cherokee Bluff in St. Paul, engaging volunteers in science-based restoration and protecting bluffs from erosion and habitat degradation. (“Key habitat” in the St. Paul Baldwin Plains and Moraines subsection of SWAP)
- **Protect up to 600 acres on the Wild and Scenic Rum River** just a few miles upstream of the Mississippi River (a “key river reach” identified in the Anoka Sand Plain subsection of the SWAP)

In the **St. Croix River Habitat Corridor**, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat program will:

- **Restore and manage habitat targeted for species of greatest conservation need** in the six-mile **Franconia-Scandia St. Croix corridor and Lower St. Croix Valley**, including prescribed burning, removing invasive species, removing trees and shrubs from prairie areas (controlling woody encroachment), and seeding oak woodland. (“key habitat” in the Mille Lacs Upland and St. Paul – Baldwin Plains and Moraines subsections, with both showing very high concentrations of SGCN along the St. Croix in Washington and Chisago counties);
- **Protect up to 30 acres of forest in the Franconia/ Scandia St. Croix River corridor**, complementing existing protected lands along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (“key river reach” identified in the Mille Lacs Upland subsection);
- **Protect up to 1000 acres of forest and wetlands at Big Marine Lake** in the St. Croix Greenway (in the St. Paul – Baldwin Plains and Moraines);

3. **Who will take action and when?**

Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners will complete projects between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2012. Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners work with the state and federal agencies that own the lands or will be the eventual owners or holders of easements to ensure that all land acquired has a restoration and maintenance plan, following conveyance to the long-term steward.

4. **How will you coordinate this program with the other Constitutional Funding?**

A key strength of Metro Big Rivers Habitat is achieving statewide conservation objectives with a wide range of tools. We apply a range of conservation strategies to achieve conservation goals and multiple benefits.

While the activities mentioned here directly address the habitat goals of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, other activities on these sites, or other sites, might be appropriate for Clean Water Legacy (erosion control and slope stabilization), and other sites might be protected with Regional Park Legacy funds to connect protected habitat. Since 2003, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat Partners have protected and

restored high quality habitat in this area with support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, leveraging substantial non-state funding and resources. The partners will continue to coordinate activities and raise funds from many sources to achieve conservation objectives in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

5. What specific habitat changes will occur if this item is funded? Be specific about and list multiple benefits if they exist.

Habitat changes and benefits resulting from this project include:

- **Prairies, wetlands, forests and other wildlife habitat** that are now unprotected will be put under permanent protection. Because most of these sites are adjacent to existing protected land or part of a natural area complex, these protected acres will expand habitat for wildlife in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area and public access for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation.
- **Wetlands** will be restored by breaking drainage tile, constructing water control structures, making shallow scrapes, and planting wetland species. Restored wetlands would be able to support more waterfowl, protect water quality, and provide improved wildlife habitat.
- **Oak savanna** will be restored by prescribed burning, invasive species and woody encroachment control, mowing and local ecotype seeding. Oak savanna is recognized as globally endangered, and some of the best examples of dry oak savanna in the state occur in this subsection. There are 30 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) listed for Oak Savanna habitat in the Anoka Sandplain, which include 15 species of birds, e.g., loggerhead shrike and red-headed woodpeckers, 5 species of insects, 6 species of mammals, e.g., plains pocket mouse, and 4 species of reptiles, e.g., Blanding's turtle, gopher snake, and western hognose snake.
- **Deciduous forests, including floodplain forests**, will be restored by preparing the soil, planting floodplain trees, removing invasive species and burning. Targeted for restoration, the St. Croix/Mississippi Rivers forest corridor forms a major north-south migration route for many game and non-game birds. In addition, they provide habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including Louisiana waterthrush, prothonotary warbler, red-shouldered hawk and bald eagle. Nominated an Important Bird Area by Audubon, this area contains many nesting bald eagles, osprey and red-shouldered hawks.
- **Fens** will be restored by targeting invasive species, fostering re-growth of rare native species, and working with communities to improve the groundwater recharge. This habitat restoration will improve the fens' natural functions, including groundwater recharge, and enhance the site's effectiveness as a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife, including state-listed species.
- **Prairie** will be restored by planting a diverse native seed mix, mowing for weed control, and doing prescribed burns. Today, less than one percent of Minnesota's native prairie remains. The near elimination of native prairie has had an effect on

Restoration and enhancement of target habitat types based on scientific principles benefits prairie, wetland, forest and habitat for fish, game and wildlife. Each proposed action is essential to restore or enhance the specific habitat types at each site. Please see questions 2 and 5 for more detailed descriptions of proposed activities.

10. If you are restoring or enhancing property, is the activity on permanently protected land?

 X YES NO
If yes briefly describe the kind of protection.

The sites are protected using two legal tools: legal recording, with conservation easements on private land, or title held by a public agency; and statutory authority, with agency or program authority described in state or federal law (state scientific and natural area, federal wildlife refuge, national park unit, state wildlife management area or other state ownership). These two tools are used in combination or independently.

11. How will you ensure transparency and provide information about your work and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars.

Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners will ensure transparency and provide information about our work and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars in the following ways:

- Timely and complete reporting to the L-SOHC and DNR, as required by the grant agreement with each partner.
- Publicity about program and specific project plans, results and outcomes through partner websites and e-newsletters.
- Signage on the protected or restored sites.
- Ongoing updates and announcements with press releases, media relations, tours and web postings.
- Partner and project communications directly to local communities, including through volunteer engagement events.

12. Why will this strategy work?

Science-based model

We use ecological criteria to select sites that serve regional habitat goals. The DNR and Metropolitan Council developed a science-based model to identify priority sites for protection, restoration and enhancement. The partners applied that model to identify habitat corridors and priority sites to achieve regional habitat goals. That 2002 model and 2003 habitat corridor mapping, updated as land cover mapping is completed and conditions change, have guided and will continue to guide project activity.

We apply the most effective practices for habitat restoration and management, informed by conservation restoration science.

Expertise protecting and restoring habitat in the region and statewide

Each partner has a long-term track record of achievement in conserving natural resources within and beyond the metro area. In land acquisition, we use the most effective practices to negotiate and complete due diligence. In restoration and enhancement, we apply restoration strategies tested at other sites and based on conservation restoration research results.

Partnership effectiveness and experience

This partnership has demonstrated on-the-ground results and leveraged resources beyond the capacity of individual partners. Since 2003, the partners have worked together through the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors to protect more than 5,200 acres of land, including 8.2 miles of shoreline, and to restore more than 4,300 acres of land, including two miles of shoreline. This partnership harnesses the varied skills of its partners to increase impact and efficiency.

13. Who might make decisions that assist or work against achieving the expected impact program?

Land Acquisition

Private landowners make a personal decision to protect their land through conservation easement or sale, and can assist or work against program goals. Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have experience successfully negotiating with private landowners, which requires patience and skill. To prevent any one landowner from obstructing our goals, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have identified several potential properties for protection based on discussions already underway with landowners.

Neighbors and communities also make decisions to support the protection of land either through easement or fee. To prevent any one neighbor or community from obstructing our goals, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have already identified potential properties for protection based on discussions underway with these neighbors and communities. We can already report that support is strong.

Restoration and Enhancement

From past experience, we know that some people may react negatively to the cutting of invasive trees and exotic shrubs, where they see such vegetation as green buffer. People also may regret the thinning of trees to open up the oak savanna canopy. However, the special feature of this proposal involving stakeholders and public volunteers, as well as public education, will significantly minimize this potential project impact.

14. If this is acquisition of land, has the local government formally approved the acquisition?

 X YES

 NO

For each of the projects listed, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have secured informal support and / or will secure the formal support of the local government when and if required when land protection / restoration projects move into the contractual stage.

15. If this is fee simple acquisition of land, is the land free of any other permanent protection such as a conservation easement?

 X YES

 NO

Urgency: Habitat Importance

The Big River valleys provide essential habitat for resident wildlife, and support migrating wildlife, both game and non-game species. These major corridors and connecting areas harbor the best concentration of natural communities that exist anywhere in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section. The State Wildlife Action Plan and the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan both identify the importance and potential of these Big River valleys for habitat conservation.

Urgency: Development Pressure and Restoration Needs

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat area is under heavy development pressure, especially on natural areas with high amenity value like bluffs and lakeshore. In fact, the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area is slated to grow by another 1 million people in the next 20 years.

Urgency: Public Importance of Outdoor Experience

Providing Minnesotans with hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities requires access to meaningful outdoor experiences close to home. People will be more aware of habitat importance in the state and the region and enjoy better access to wildlife areas with the work of Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners.

21. Does the request restore and/or enhance habitat on existing state-owned Wildlife or Aquatic Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas?

 X YES

 NO

If Yes, list the names of the AMAs, WMAs and/or SNAs and the acres to be restored and/or enhanced.

Minnesota River Corridor: Savage Fen (20 acres), Seminary Fen (30 acres), Black Dog Nature Preserve (50 acres),

Mississippi River Corridor: Pine Bend Bluffs (38 acres), Indian Mounds Bluff, Cherokee Bluffs.

St. Croix River Corridor: Franconia (20 acres), Falls Creek (20 acres), Lost Valley (20 acres)

22. Is this request based on assessment through a science based strategic planning and evaluation model similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model?

 X YES

 NO

If yes, explain the model briefly.

The Strategic Habitat Conservation model has five elements: Biological Planning, Conservation Design, Conservation Delivery, Assumption-driven Research, and Outcome-based Monitoring. The DNR and Metropolitan Council identified regionally significant ecological areas based on a suite of focal species and their habitat, as the Strategic Habitat Conservation model recommends. Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have applied Conservation Delivery tools based on that planning. This request for protection and restoration work helps achieve conservation objectives for this region.

The Strategic Habitat Conservation model recommends sustained delivery and iterative planning, design, research and monitoring. The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership

contributes significantly to this model functioning efficiently in the region, in concert with academic and public agency planning, research and monitoring work. Our long-term commitment and extensive experience in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area build substantial capacity to achieve science-based conservation goals here.

23. Explain the scientific foundation for your project, and the benefits it will produce.

The scientific foundation for the Metro Big River Habitat work is to apply biological planning and conservation design to target projects at three hierarchical levels: multiple focal species (extinctions avoided); sites (areas protected and enhanced); and landscapes (habitat complexes and corridors created). Our investment strategy enables us to target our limited resources to species, sites and landscapes of regional conservation concern. As our conservation delivery succeeds in protecting and enhancing habitat in priority areas, each of those levels is addressed – species, sites, and landscapes. The acres enhanced or protected provide measurable results in the larger context of biological planning and conservation design.

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners will protect 850 acres and restore 338 acres targeted to sites and landscapes selected for their regional biological benefit.

24. How do you set priorities? (Be sure to list the criteria you use and the weight you give each one.)

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership sets its priorities by applying GIS-based natural resource assessments and regional landscape plans within the defined project areas for this proposal. We work in core habitat areas, establish habitat corridors, create buffers for existing protected land, and increase public access to nature-related recreation. This strategy complements our larger, historic Metro Conservation Corridors approach, which applies to a larger geography beyond just the three Big River Corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

Criteria include:

- **Threshold qualifying criterion:** Within habitat corridors mapped by DNR and partners based on analysis of regional ecological significance and within one of the three Big River Corridors.
- **Highest priority:** Regionally significant ecological areas, including presence of Minnesota County Biological Survey quality ecological system(s) and/or concentration of species of Greatest conservation need / Threatened or endangered species
- **Highest priority:** Immediacy of need/action
- **Highest priority:** Feasibility
- **High priority:** Public lands with permanent protection, or expansions and buffering of public lands
- **High priority:** Public accessibility with particular emphasis on access for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation.
- **High priority:** Multiple conservation benefits

C. Relationship to the *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership applies several key habitat recommendations of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation Preservation Plan (MSCPP), implementing the more specific habitat priorities illustrated in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and in some cases, also highlighted in species-specific plans like the Long Term Duck Recovery Plan. The activity descriptions above include references to the specific ecological subsection and priority habitats in those areas.

- The science-based identification of priority areas and projects corresponds to priorities outlined in the MSCPP, including:
 - protecting priority habitat,
 - protecting critical shorelands,
 - improving connectivity and access to outdoor recreation;
 - restoring land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds;
 - protecting and restoring critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams; and
 - keeping water on the landscape.
- In particular “improving connectivity and access to outdoor recreation,” our work improves and expands new hunting, fishing and other wildlife-based recreational opportunities close to home for three million Minnesotans. These opportunities will help to build a new generation of Minnesotans who love to hunt, fish, bird-watch, or study wildlife.
- The specific projects described above achieve habitat protection and restoration objectives on a wide range of “key habitat” areas, as noted above.
- The Metro Big Rivers Habitat meets two of the L-SOHC’s priorities in this section:
 - “Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers);” and
 - “protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity.”

D. Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$143,528	\$2,000	
Contracts	\$40,000	\$30,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$69,205		
Fee Acquisition	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	
Easement Acquisition	\$200,000		
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services			
Travel	\$5,800	\$200	
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$2,458,533	\$2,032,200	\$0

E. Personnel Details *In the space below list the names, titles and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation. If you will need to fill a position just list the title and amount.*

Title	Name	Amount.
(FMR) Conservation Director	Tom Lewanski	\$2,000
(FMR) Restoration Ecologist		\$5,000
(GRG) Ecologist/Reporting	Varies	\$11,500
(GRG) Budget Accounting	Deb Gager	\$2,070
(GRG) Budget Management	Greg Wenz	\$3,884
(GRG) Field Technicians	Multiple	\$74,091
(GRG) Ecologist,	Varies	\$22,115
(GRG) Project Assistant, Mapping Support		\$3,870
(GRG) Volunteer Manager	Mark Turbak	\$20,999

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F. All Leverage In the table below list the sources and amounts of leverage you anticipate by fiscal year you anticipate receiving it. Include state and non-state leverage.

Source of Non-State Leverage	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$525,000	\$525,000	
NFWF (GRG)	\$37,000	\$38,000	
Dakota County (FMR)	\$160,000		
Landowner (FMR)	\$50,000		
Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR)	\$10,000	\$5,000	
Local (TPL)	\$500,000	\$500,000	
Federal (TPL)		\$200,000	
Private (TPL)	\$300,000	\$200,000	
Source of State Leverage	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
State Funding LCCMR, RIM and/or Bonding (TPL)	\$700,000	\$600,000	
TOTAL	\$2,282,000	\$2,068,000	

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G. Outcomes:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>60 Acres</i>	<i>140 Acres</i>		<i>138 Acres</i>
Protect	<i>56 Acres</i>	<i>42 Acres</i>	<i>72 Acres</i>	<i>680 Acres</i>
Enhance				

Table 2 Sections Impacted and Impact Quantifier	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (60 acres)</i>	<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (140 acres)</i>		<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (138 acres)</i>
Protect	<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (56 acres)</i>	<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (42 acres)</i>	<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (72 acres)</i>	<i>Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (680 acres)</i>
Enhance				

Table 3 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>\$63,970</i>	<i>\$149,263</i>		<i>\$75,300</i>
Protect	<i>\$840,000</i>	<i>\$630,000</i>	<i>\$1,080,000</i>	<i>\$1,652,200</i>
Enhance				

Table 4 Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>\$22,500</i>	<i>\$52,500</i>		<i>\$55,000</i>
Protect	<i>\$840,000</i>	<i>\$630,000</i>	<i>\$1,080,000</i>	<i>\$1,610,000</i>
Enhance				

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Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability			<i>50 acres</i>	
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	<i>56 acres</i>	<i>42 acres</i>	<i>22 acres</i>	<i>530 acres</i>
Permanent Easement				<i>150 acres</i>

H. Accomplishment Time Table: Using the headings below, include a clear **statement of how much of what is being accomplished and when**. Attach a **map** showing where accomplishments are anticipated. Accomplishments should clearly restore, enhance or protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

Milestone	Date	Measure
<u>FMR Conservation Easement:</u>		
Complete landowner neg./agreement	Aug 2010	
Due diligence	Dec 2010	
Closing	March 2011	150 acres
<u>FMR Restoration:</u>		
Develop restoration plan	Sept 2010	
Seek contractor bids	Jan 2011	
Complete exotic invasive plant removal	April 2011	
Complete followup herbicide treatment for exotics	Oct 2011	
Prepare soil for tree planting	Oct 2011	
Plant trees to disturbed site	May 2012	38 acres
<u>GRG Restoration:</u>		
Completion of first restoration	June 2011	100 acres
Completion of second restoration	June 2012	100 acres
<u>MVT Acquisition:</u>		
Complete landowner neg / signed purchase agmt(s)	Dec 2010	
Due diligence	April 2011	
Closing parcel(s)	June 2011	250 acres
Complete landowner neg / signed purchase agmt(s)	June 2011	
Due diligence	Oct 2011	

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Closing parcel(s)	Dec 2011	250 acres
<u>MVT Restoration:</u>		
Develop restoration plans	April 2011	
Seek proposals / bids from contractors	June 2011	
Complete restoration	Oct 2011	100 acres
<u>TPL Acquisition:</u>		
Complete landowner neg./agreements parcels	Oct 2010	
Complete steward planning for restoration, mgt, use	Feb 2011	
Complete due diligence	Aug 2011	
Closing parcels	Oct 2011	100 acres
Complete landowner neg./agreements parcels	April 2011	
Repeat milestones	Feb 2012	
Closing parcels	April 2012	100 acres

I. Relationship to Your Current Budget

The Minnesota Valley Trust's FY10 budget:

MVT's operating budget (general, administration, office, fees) is \$314,470 for FY10. This does not include any program spending on land acquisition, habitat restoration and other activities, which will be at least \$2.5M for the fiscal year.

Trust for Public Land

TPL's operating budget is expected to be \$1.8M in FY2011 and \$1.8M in FY2012. which includes all staff and expenses for program and project work statewide and, as mentioned above, any due diligence, legal, community outreach / planning, fundraising, financing expenses, reporting, communications, administration for any project underway or completed as part of the Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program. The \$6M in land capital (proposed LSOHC and anticipated leverage) used for protection of approximately 200 acres within the three Big River Corridors is *not included* in TPL's operating budget.

Friends of the Mississippi River

FMR's budget for 2009 was \$1.5M. The operating or administrative component of our proposal, \$27,500, is roughly 2% of our 2009 budget, which are all operating expenses. The \$400,000 in land capital (LSOHC and leverage) that will be used for protection of approximately 150 acres in this project is not included in FMR's operating budget.

Great River Greening

Great River Greening's total budget for 2009 is \$1,078,000. Approximately 85% is direct project money for on-the-ground work and 15% is project development, budget accounting, fundraising, and general administration. The Great River Greening request of \$200,000 for direct project support is not part of our base budget.

J. How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

All restoration or enhancement projects are part of a long-term management plan or management brief, which is fully endorsed by the landowner or land steward.

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In the St. Croix area, management agencies will coordinate and jointly implement monitoring programs and assess the effectiveness of restoration and protection, consistent with the assumption-driven research and outcome-based monitoring.

K. Attach a list of your projects listing their county location and edit the map of Minnesota on the next page to show each project as a symbol.

The locations of the possible projects identified for this program are listed below. As noted previously, we will not complete all of the protection projects with this grant, but will select among the possible projects and achieve the targeted acreages.

<u>Partner Name</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Action</u>
MVT	MN Valley NWR Expansion	LeSueur, Scott and Sibley Counties	Protect
MVT	MN Valley NWR Restoration	Sibley County	Restore
FMR	Pine Bend Bluffs Acquisition	Dakota County	Protect
FMR	Pine Bend Bluffs Restoration	Dakota County	Restore
TPL	Savage Fen	Scott County	Protect
TPL	Rum River Confluence	Anoka County	Protect
TPL	Big Marine Acquisition	Washington County	Protect
TPL	Scandia/Franconia Acquisition	Chisago County	Protect
TPL	Pike Lake Acquisition	Scott County	Protect
GRG	Seminary Fen Restoration	Carver County	Restore
GRG	Savage Fen Restoration	Scott County	Restore
GRG	Black Dog Fen Restoration	Scott County	Restore
GRG	Indian Mounds Savanna	Ramsey County	Restore
GRG	Cherokee Bluffs Savanna	Ramsey County	Restore
GRG	Franconia/Scandia Corridor	Chisago County	Restore

