

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

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## Project Summary

### Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	<b>Engebretson CREP Enhancement</b>	Project Manager:	<b>Andy Rice</b>
Organization Name:	<b>Stevens SWCD</b>	Title:	<b>Farm Bill Technician</b>
Organization Type:	<b>Government</b>	Phone:	<b>320-589-4886</b>
Mailing Address 1:	<b>12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2</b>	Email:	<b>andy.rice@stevensswcd.org</b>
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	<b>Morris</b>		
State:	<b>MN</b>		
Zip Code:	<b>56267</b>		

### Project Location Summary

Primary County:	<b>Stevens</b>	Secondary Land Ownerships:	
Nearest City:	<b>Morris</b>		
Project Site Name:	<b>Engebretson CREP Easement</b>		
Primary Land Ownership:	<b>Private</b>		

### Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	<b>Restoration</b>	Primary Habitat Type:	<b>Wetland</b>
Additional Activities:	<b>Enhancement</b>	Additional Habitats:	<b>Prairie</b>
Total Project Sites:	<b>1</b>		
Total Project Acres:	<b>47</b>		

### Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount Requested:	<b>\$54,000</b>
Total Match Amount Pledged:	<b>\$23,500</b>
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	<b>\$77,500</b>
Estimated Project Completion Date:	<b>2011-09-30</b>

## Summary

The Engebretson CREP Easement was acquired by BWSR in 2002 from Phil Allen and totals 49.2 acres. This project only includes about 47 acres of the easement on which we would like to restore a 10 acre wetland and improve the existing cover. At the time the easement was acquired, funds were not available to cover the construction of the significant wetland restoration structure needed to restore a drained wetland in the center of this tract. Mr. Allen could not pay for the restoration personally. When Mr. Engebretson acquired the property in 2008, he wanted to pursue the restoration to provide additional wildlife habitat. He also recognized that a diverse mix of upland cover would be more beneficial to ground nesting birds and waterfowl than the monotypic stand of smooth brome that it is currently becoming.

## Problem Statement

The wetland restoration is needed to restore this prairie pothole tract and fully complete this

project, which was left incomplete after it was signed up in 2002 because of the lack of funding. This project will provide the maximum amount of waterfowl habitat possible on this site. Enhancing the cover to a more diverse native grass and forb mixture instead of allowing it to remain in smooth brome will be more attractive to wildlife, reduce soil erosion (due to the deep root systems of the natives), and if managed correctly, sustain itself forever. Troy Engebretson's willingness to work with us to restore and enhance this wetland and upland habitat gives us a great opportunity to provide wildlife conservation for future generations.

### Project Objectives

We plan to restore a wetland totaling about 10 acres in size. The remaining 37 acres of the project will be restored to native prairie. This project will improve wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion by planting native grasses and help improve water quality in the Pomme de Terre Watershed. Both wetland and grassland dependent species, including amphibians, small mammals, waterfowl and numerous species of grassland birds that are state endangered or threatened could be helped by this project.

### Methods

This project will begin with a prescribed burn in the spring of 2011. This will clean up the site, allowing for good seed/soil contact when it is seeded and help control smooth brome which is a cool season grass. About 2 weeks after the burn, a Round-Up application will be performed to kill or set back any resprouting brome and weeds. A minimum 30 species mix of native grasses and forbs will be drilled around the time of the Round-Up application. This planting will be mowed twice during the months of July and August to slow down weeds that may be coming up. From the months of July to September, the wetland restoration will be completed, restoring up to 10 acres of a previously drained wetland.

### Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
<b>May 2011</b>	<b>Burn existing cover</b>
<b>June 2011</b>	<b>Application of Round-up</b>
<b>June 2011</b>	<b>Seed native grasses and forbs</b>
<b>July 2011</b>	<b>Mow seeded areas</b>
<b>August 2011</b>	<b>Mow seeded areas</b>
<b>July - September 2011</b>	<b>Restore wetland</b>

Identify short and long term maintenance and management work required to sustain this project and source(s) of funding

Work needed	Who is responsible	Funding source
<b>Spot spraying is necessary in the 2nd and 3rd year after seeding</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Landowner</b>
<b>Prescribed Burns every 4 - 6 years forever</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Landowner</b>

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## Project Information

Answer each of the following questions in 1000 characters or less; descriptions/definitions are available in the [Criteria and Scoring Table](#).

**1. Describe the local support for this project.**

This project will be on a CREP easement, which is a combination of a CRP contract and a RIM easement. The CRP contract involves the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RIM easement involves the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Stevens SWCD. The USFWS owns the property to the south of this easement and will be directly affected. Pheasants Forever and Habitat Forever are in favor of seeding the upland to natives. People from all of these groups are in agreement that a wetland restoration and native grass establishment would greatly improve this easement.

**2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.**

This project will be a partnership between the Stevens SWCD, who will be administering the grant and who administers RIM in the county; FSA, who administers the CRP contract; NRCS, who provides technical assistance on CRP; BWSR, who holds the easement and who performed the engineering tasks associated with the wetland restoration; USFWS, who owns the property directly to the south of this easement and is contributing \$10,000 towards the wetland restoration; Pheasants Forever, who is contributing \$500 towards the native grass and forb seed; and Troy Engebretson, who owns the property and is supportive of the project.

**3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.**

This easement was signed up in 2002 but no wetland restoration was completed. The longer we let this project go without completing a restoration, the more likely it will never be restored. All of the agencies involved with the CREP easement are all in favor of this project. This may not always be the case, as staff and rules change over time. The USFWS is contributing a large amount of money that they might not be able to contribute in the future. The smooth brome is an invasive introduced grass and when left alone can overtake native grasses.

**4. Discuss if there are multiple benefits resulting from your project, identifying those species, habitats, etc.**

This project will benefit native prairie and wetland obligate plants and animals. The wetland restoration will provide habitat for wetland dependent species such as migratory birds, amphibians and reptiles. Re-establishing the upland area to native grasses and forbs will provide a food source and better habitat for ground nesting birds. This project should also help improve water quality in the Pomme de Terre Watershed.

**5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.**

The wetland restoration and upland enhancement will convert a project that was probably good for soil and water conservation with minimal wildlife habitat benefits to a tract that will significantly benefit wildlife. Waterfowl, grassland birds and other upland and wetland dependent species will find much more food and cover available once a robust, diverse stand of native grasses and forbs is available to them and the wetland is restored and filled with aquatic plants.

**6. Describe how your project is consistent with sound conservation science.**

Restoring this wetland will provide the maximum amount of waterfowl habitat on this property. Restoring this wetland provides benefits to wildlife habitat, water quality and groundwater supply. Converting smooth brome to native grasses and forbs is a highly accepted practice for providing better habitat and food sources for upland dependent species. Native grasses provide more soil stability due to their deep root system, which

will reduce soil erosion.

**7. Indicate if your project is adjacent to protected lands, describing those lands (ownership, public access, etc.)**

This tract is directly north of the Allen Waterfowl Product Area (WPA) consisting of 60 acres. It is within one mile of the Telkamp WPA consisting of 105 acres. Those WPAs are owned by USFWS and are open to public hunting.

**8. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project and the sources of funding.**

All of the funds are secure. The Stevens County Pheasants Forever Chapter is contributing \$500 for the project. The USFWS is contributing \$10,000 towards the project. FSA will be contributing up to \$1400 for upland enhancement. This will easily cover the 10% local match not including the in-kind items.

**9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.**

The Stevens SWCD does not have any funding for wetland restorations or vegetation enhancements. The organizations that are contributing do not have the funding to cover the whole project either. Without this grant, this project might not ever be completed.

**10. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.**

This tract is privately owned and is not open to public hunting or fishing. The landowner does reserve the right to open this tract to public hunting or leased hunting.

**11. Describe the sustainability of your project.**

The Stevens SWCD performs site inspections on this site to make sure it is in compliance with the current conservation plan. If this grant is approved, USFWS will help with inspections on the wetland restoration structure because they are contributing funds for the project. For the vegetation enhancement, the landowner agrees that a prescribed burn every 4-6 years should be done to increase plant species diversity and improve wildlife habitat.

**12. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).**

The current grass cover consists of mostly smooth brome with some native grasses. The cover was never maintained like it should have been under the previous landowner. A mixture of a minimum of 30 species of native grasses and forbs will be seeded the spring of 2011 after a prescribed burn and Round-Up application are performed to reduce to competition from the smooth brome. An effort will be made to find yellow tag seed. If yellow tag seed is not available, at a minimum, all species will have their origin in Minnesota.

**13. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.**

The life expectancy of a steel weir is 50 years or more when constructed properly. This is what would be used for the wetland restoration. The cost is less than \$100 per acre per year to restore the 10 acre wetland. The cost to re-establish native grasses and forbs is about \$275 per acre. If managed correctly, this diverse native seeding will sustain itself forever.

**14. Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.**

The staff in our office has experience overseeing and implementing wetland restoration projects completed through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Wetland Reserve Program - Reinvest In Minnesota Partnership (WRP-RIM). We have also provided guidance for the grass plantings for these programs. Stevens SWCD receives and administers cost-share grants every year from BWSR for projects such as tree plantings and sediment dams. Since 2005, we have paid out over \$111,000 to landowners for 66 conservation projects. We haven't had any grants for a wetland restoration project of this magnitude. Back in 1996 Stevens SWCD received and administered a grant from the DNR to enroll land into primarily 10 year wetland

restoration contracts. These areas were seeded down and the wetlands were restored.

**15. Discuss how your project supports landscape level plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.**

This project helps support USFWS's plans for restoring migratory bird habitat on habitat easements. This project will support any grassland or wetland obligate species or native prairie specialist identified in any state or region-wide species or wildlife management plans. These species include waterfowl, pheasants, grassland songbirds, grassland T & E species, and Dakota Skipper (Federal Candidate species). This project will also benefit native prairie plants and insects in addition to the larger species mentioned above.

**16. Discuss how your project supports species plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.**

This project will support any grassland or wetland obligate species or native prairie specialist identified in any state or region-wide species or wildlife management plans. These species include waterfowl, pheasants, grassland songbirds, grassland T & E species, and Dakota Skipper (Federal Candidate species). This project will also benefit native prairie plants and insects in addition to the larger species mentioned above.

**17. Discuss how your project conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.**

This project will support any grassland or wetland obligate species or native prairie specialist identified in any state or region-wide species or wildlife management plans. These species include waterfowl, pheasants, grassland songbirds, grassland T & E species, and Dakota Skipper (Federal Candidate species). This project will also benefit native prairie plants and insects in addition to the larger species mentioned above.

**18. Discuss how your project conforms to the State Wildlife Action Plan (if applicable).**

This project will support any grassland or wetland obligate species or native prairie specialist identified in any state or region-wide species or wildlife management plans. These species include waterfowl, pheasants, grassland songbirds, grassland T & E species, and Dakota Skipper (Federal Candidate species). This project will also benefit native prairie plants and insects in addition to the larger species mentioned above.

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## Site Information

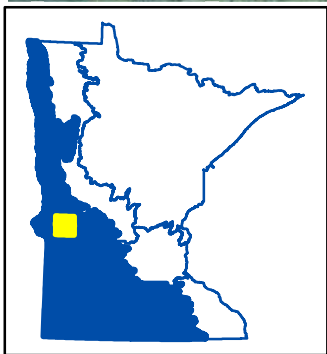
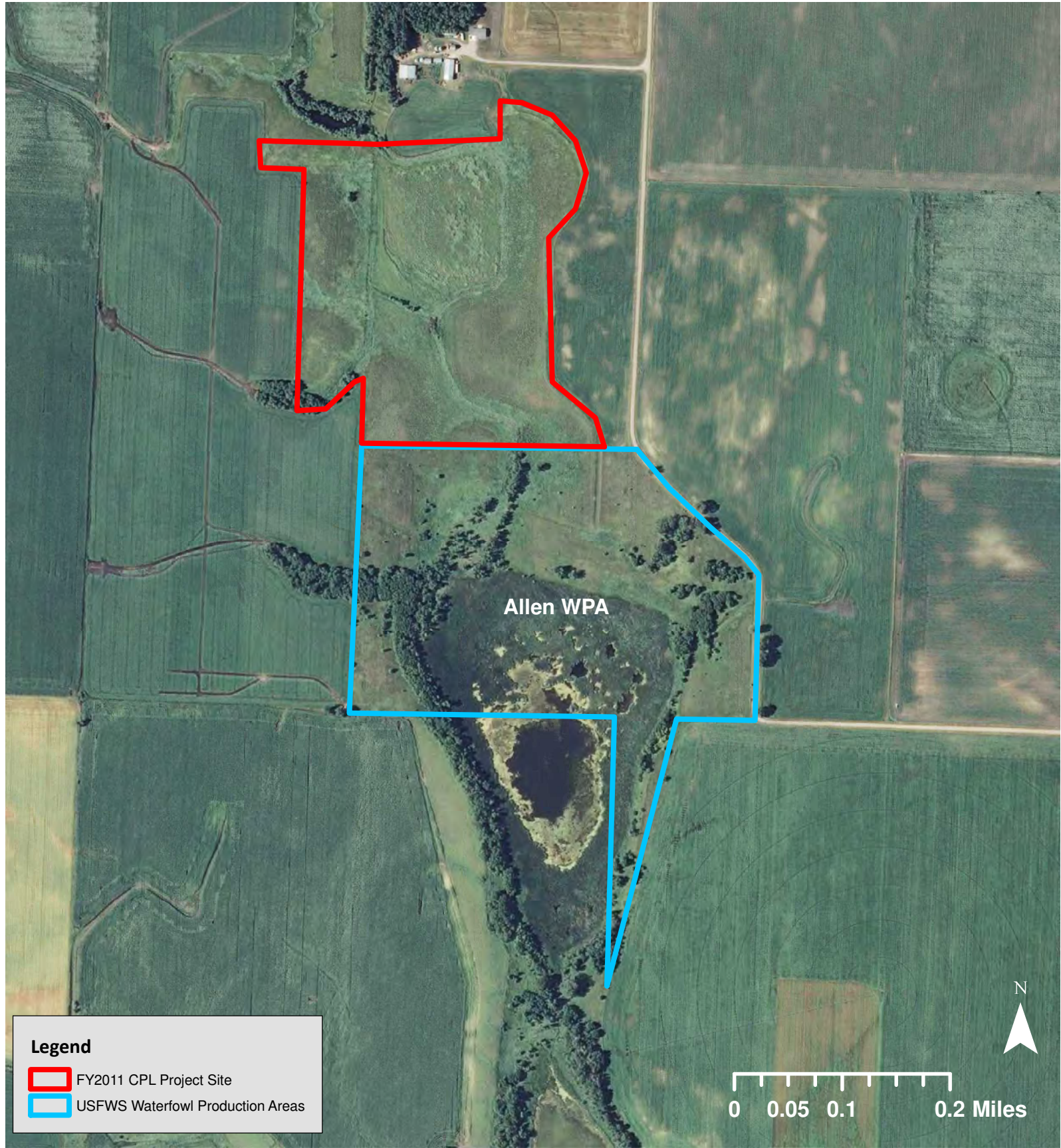
\*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

### Land Manager

Name:	<b>Frank Durbian</b>	Phone:	<b>320-598-1001</b>
Organization:	<b>US Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	Email:	<b>frank_durbian@fws.gov</b>
Title:	<b>Deputy Refuge Manager</b>		

### Site Information

Land Ownership:	<b>Private</b>	Acres:	<b>47</b>
Site Name(s):	<b>Engebretson CREP Easement</b>	Click here to <a href="#">View Site Map</a>	
Activity:	<b>Restoration</b>		
Habitat:	<b>Wetland</b>		



**CPL FY11-067**  
**Engebretson CREP Enhancement**  
**Stevens SWCD**  
**Stevens County**  
**LSOHC Prairie Planning Section**



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## Budget Information

### Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	<b>Chris Staebler</b>	Street Address 1:	<b>12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2</b>
Title:	<b>Office Manager</b>	Street Address 2:	
Email:	<b>chris.staebler@stevensswcd.org</b>	City:	<b>Morris</b>
Phone:	<b>320-589-4886</b>	State:	<b>MN</b>
		Zip Code:	<b>56267</b>

### Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$2,600		
Contracts	\$53,000	\$11,900	\$64,900		
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition					
Easement Stewardship				In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)				<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$11,900</b>
Professional Services		\$10,000	\$10,000		
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$54,000</b>	<b>\$23,500</b>	<b>\$77,500</b>		

### Details

#### Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
<b>Stevens SWCD</b>	<b>Grant Administration</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>Grant</b>	
<b>Upland Enhancement</b>	<b>Landowner - establishment</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>In-kind</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Grant: \$1,000 Match: \$1,600</b>	<b>Total: \$2,600</b>		

#### Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
<b>To be determined</b>	<b>burn, seed, and seeding</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>Grant</b>	
<b>To be determined</b>	<b>control structure, dirt work</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>Grant</b>	
<b>TBD</b>	<b>FSA - Burn, seed, seeding</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>FWS- structure, dirt work</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>PF - Burn, seed, seeding</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Grant: \$53,000 Match: \$11,900</b>	<b>Total: \$64,900</b>		

#### Professional Services

Professional Name	Description of Services	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
<b>Wetland Restoration</b>	<b>BWSR-structure design change</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>In-kind</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Grant: \$0 Match: \$10,000</b>	<b>Total: \$10,000</b>		



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## Project Review and Approval

A Project Review and Approval Form must be completed by each Land Manager named within the Site Info tab and Land Managers only need to complete one form for all sites they manage. Submitting this form fulfills the following requirements:

- Provides the results of the Natural Heritage Database Review,
- Allows for technical review of the project by the Land Manager, and
- Verifies that the public agency approves the work to be done (or acquisition) on land they manage.

You, as the applicant, are responsible for meeting with the Land Manager and receiving a completed Project Review and Approval Form. This form must contain an original signature from the Land Manager and you must upload it below as a PDF.

Each project will require at least one Project Review and Approval form. You may attach up to 4 forms on this page, but if you need more room you may attach up to three more on the "Additional Info" tab. If your project is working under 3 Land Managers, you must receive and submit a form from each manager.

No late Project Review and Approval Forms will be accepted. Applications lacking any necessary approval forms will be deemed incomplete and not considered for funding.

**Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)**

No **Natural Heritage** elements were found within my project site(s):

**Project Review and Approval Forms**

Uploaded Form 1

## CPL Project Review and Approval Form

**REVIEWER INFORMATION:**

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Frank Durbian
Agency:	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Title:	Deputy Refuge Manager
Phone:	320-589-1001
Email:	frank_durbian@fws.gov

**PROJECT INFORMATION:**

Project Name:	Engbretson CREP Enhance.
Contact Person:	Andy Rice
Organization:	Stevens County SWCD
Email:	andy.rice@stevensswcd.org

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.  
 For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

**I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:**

- this project to have no features within one mile.  
 this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:

- this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.  
 a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.  
 an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.
- I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

## CPL Project Review and Approval Form

**For Acquisitions Only:**

- This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
  - I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

Habitat Development	# Acres	Cost/ Acre	Total	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Prairie Grassland					Choose
Forest/ Woody Cover					Choose
Wetland					Choose
<b>Totals</b>					

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Boundary Survey			Choose
Posting/ Fencing			Choose
Wood Routed Sign			Choose
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots			Choose
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
<b>Total</b>			

**Upon final review of this project:**

- I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name:	Phone:
-------	--------

By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name:

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Date:

9/14/2010

Comments: This Project directly benefits a Waterfowl Production Area managed by USFWS. We will be actively involved in the project oversight and have committed \$10,000 toward the total cost of this project

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## Additional Information

List any additional details about your project here. Include your organization's history or charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. This is not required.

## Supplemental Documents

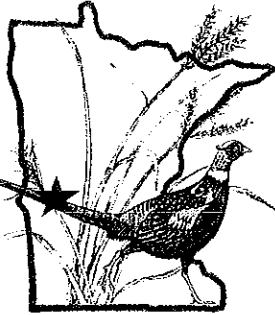
If you / your project does not need to upload any of these documents, you may leave these upload boxes empty.

Upload additional information here, limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc. You may email easement information only if it exceeds size limit while trying to submit the application; all other supporting documentation must be uploaded. Reference CPL Application # and name when emailing (provided upon application submission) or your email will be returned. Send emails to [LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us)

Uploaded Document 1

Uploaded Document 2

Stevens



Stevens Soil and Water Conservation District  
12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2  
Morris MN 56267  
(320) 589-4886 ext. 3  
(320) 589-8836 fax  
[www.stevensswcd.org](http://www.stevensswcd.org)

September 2, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express the Stevens SWCD's support of a wetland restoration and upland enhancement on Troy Engebretson's CREP easement in Section 35 of Rendsville Township (T126N, R42W) in Stevens County Minnesota. We will contribute our time by administering the grant. We will also help with construction management by providing technical and ecological assistance.

Providing funding for this wetland restoration and upland enhancement will create better habitat for waterfowl along with other wetland and upland dependent species. This project has the support of numerous agencies which will make for a great collaboration towards wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Solemsaas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Solemsaas  
District Administrator  
Stevens SWCD



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Morris Wetland Management District  
43875 230<sup>th</sup> Street  
Morris, Minnesota 56267



July 26, 2010

Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Andy Rice, Conservation Technician  
12 State Highway 28, Suite 2  
Morris, Minnesota 56267

Dear Mr. Rice:

I am writing to express the US Fish and Wildlife Service commitment of up to \$10,000 worth of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Federal Funds toward the restoration of the wetland and the enhancement of the uplands on the Troy Engebretson CREP Enhancement Project in Stevens County, Morris Township (T126N, R42W), Sec 35. It is our understanding that you are using our contribution as non-state match for a Conservation Legacy Grant Application being made by the Stevens County Soil and Water District. This project is immediately north of our Allen Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) and will contribute significantly to the wildlife habitat provided by this WPA for waterfowl as well as other upland and wetland dependant species.

We will reimburse Mr. Engebretson for our portion of the upland or wetland work once it has been completed and invoiced to Mr. Engebretson. We will also contribute our time to assisting with the grant administration and on the ground construction management as needed. We are happy to partner with the Stevens SWCD to improve habitat in the Morris area.

Sincerely,

Bruce Freske  
Refuge Manager  
Morris Wetland Management District



September 15, 2010

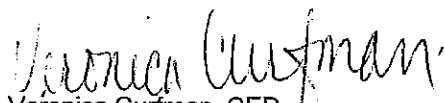
Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District  
12 Highway 28 E Suite 2  
Morris, MN 56267

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express the Farm Service Agency's support of the restoration of the wetland and the enhancement of the uplands on the Troy Engebretson CREP Enhancement Project in Stevens County, Morris Township (T126N, R42W), Section 35. This land has been under a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract since January 1, 2002. One of the practices associated with the contract is a CP23 Wetland Restoration however, due to the age of the CRP Contract; we are unable to authorize funding for the wetland restoration. We are authorizing up to \$1400 for the prescribed burn and interseeding of native grasses and forbs through mid-contract management.

The Farm Service Agency fully supports the restoration work along with the improvements to the upland habitat.

Sincerely,

  
Veronica Curfman, CED  
Stevens County FSA Office

VC:des



**Stevens County  
Pheasants Forever  
Chapter #5**

---

Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District  
12 State Highway 28, Suite 2  
Morris, Minnesota 56267

Dear Stevens SWCD:

I am writing to verify a donation of \$500 toward the restoration of the wetland and the enhancement of the uplands on the Troy Engebretson CREP Enhancement Project in Stevens County, Morris Township (T126N, R42W), Sec 35.

Sincerely,

Jason Kirwin  
PF Stevens County Chapter President





**CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM  
PARTNER COMMITMENT LETTER**

What is the name of the project that you are contributing to, and who is the applicant?

*Engebretson CREP Enhancement – Andy Rice, Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)*

What is the name of your organization (private landowners use “Private Landowner”)?

*State of Minnesota – Board of Water and Soil Resources*

When will you make the contribution?

*2011*

What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value? Does the contribution have a non-state origin?

*In addition to the State of Minnesota easement payment of \$20,593 already made for this project, the state is also committing in-kind contribution for engineering services estimated at \$10,000.*

Sincerely,

*Tom Wenzel, P.E.  
Senior Water Resources Engineer*

<i><b>Bemidji</b></i>	<i><b>Brainerd</b></i>	<i><b>Duluth</b></i>	<i><b>Fergus Falls</b></i>	<i><b>Marshall</b></i>	<i><b>Mankato</b></i>	<i><b>New Ulm</b></i>	<i><b>Rochester</b></i>
701 Minnesota Ave., Suite 234 Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 333-8024	1601 Minnesota Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (218) 828-3383	394 South Lake Ave., Room 403 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 723-4752	1004 Frontier Drive Fergus Falls, MN 56537-2505 (218) 736-5445	1400 East Lyon St., Box 267 Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 537-6060	1160 Victory Drive S., Suite 5 Mankato, MN 56001-5358 (507) 389-1967	261 Highway 15 South New Ulm, MN 56073 (507) 359-6074	2300 Silver Creek Rd N.E. Rochester, MN 55906 (507) 206-2889

*Central Office / Metro Office* 520 Lafayette Road North Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-3767 Fax: (651) 297-5615

www.bwsr.state.mn.us TTY: (800) 677-3529 An equal opportunity employer

August 5, 2010

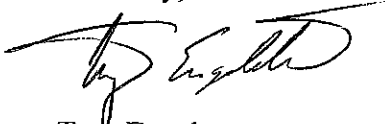
Stevens County Soil & Water Conservation District  
12 State Hwy 28, #2  
Morris, MN 56267

To Stevens County - SWCD:

I am writing to express my commitment of volunteer labor of clipping twice and round up application of \$1600.00 towards the restoration of wetland and grassland enhancement on my property which is immediately north of the Allan Waterfowl Production Area. I feel this project will greatly improve waterfowl, upland cover for nesting ducks and pheasants. It will also provide some additional winter cover for pheasants and will be closer to my winter food plot to help exposure of wintering pheasants.

I will volunteer more of my time as needed to enhance this area as many of the potholes have disappeared over the past years in Stevens County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Engebretson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Troy Engebretson  
Landowner

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
12 Highway 28 East, Suite 1  
Morris, MN 56267

Phone Number (320) 589-4886  
Fax Number (320) 589-8836

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August 13, 2010

Stevens SWCD  
12 Highway 28 East, Suite 1  
Morris, MN 56267

Subject: Engebretson's CREP enhancement project

Dear Stevens SWCD:

This letter is to emphasize the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continued support of Troy Engebretson's wetland restoration and upland enhancement located in Section 35 Morris Township, Stevens County, MN. This continued support includes assistance in the form of technical and ecological science.

Please continue your efforts in accomplishing the funding and implementation of this incredible project. Hopefully, we and future generations will experience many years of water quality and wildlife habitat benefits after the wetland pool and native vegetation regain their many functions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hellermann".

Jeff Hellermann  
District Conservationist

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Stevens County Soil and Water Conservation District  
12 State Highway 28, Suite 2  
Morris, Minnesota 56267

August 16, 2010

Dear Stevens SWCD:

I am writing to you to express Habitat Forever's support towards the restoration of the wetland and the enhancement of the uplands on the Troy Engebretson CREP Enhancement Project in Stevens County, Morris Township (T126N, R42W), Sec 35.

This habitat restoration will provide numerous benefits to Mr. Engebretson's property and when completed will enhance the surrounding landscape as well. With the adjacent federal property already devoted towards benefiting wildlife's needs, this project will contribute significantly to that goal and also contribute to cleaner water with the restoration of the wetland.

Habitat Forever looks forward to working with you and Mr. Engebretson on this project.

Sincerely,

Matt Christensen  
Habitat Forever, LLC. (A Pheasants Forever Company)  
Habitat Specialist  
12590 County Road 3 Kensington, MN 56343  
320.965.2423

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

Project Summary

Project Info

Site Info

Budget Info

Review & Approval

Additional Info

Application Submission

## Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

**I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.**

**I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.**

**I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.**

**I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.**

**I certify that I am aware at least one Project Review and Approval form is required for every application and I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached one form as necessary for each different Land Manager within my project.**

**I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.**

Signature:

**Andy Rice**

Organization / Agency:

**Stevens SWCD**

Title:

**Farm Bill Technician**

Date:

**2010-09-16**

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
 FY2011 Technical Review Comments and Scoring, Regional and Divisional Directors Comments

Proj ID	Organization Name	Project Name	Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments	Amount Requested	Score	Technical Review Committee Final Rank	Comments	Regional Comments	Meets Regional Plan?	Rank	Region	Division Director's Comments
67	Stevens SWCD	Engebretson CREP Enhancement	Looks like a nice project that will benefit Allen WPA. Unusual that it was enrolled in CREP w/o restoration funds (ran out of \$\$?). Nice tract. Nice complex, lots WRP in the county. (would have been to include this info in application.) No public access.	\$54,000	146	#6	recommended, wetland committee					Large wetland, neat WPA. No public access. One of these private land projects that are deserving and important to public benefit.

	1)Amount of Habitat	2)Local Support	3)Degree of Collaboration	4)Urgency	5)Multiple Benefits	6)Habitat Benefits	7)Sound Conservation Science	8)Adjacent to Protected Lands	9)Full Funding of Project	10)Supplants Existing Funding	11)Public Access for Hunting and Fishing	12)Sustainability
	8.00	7.00	6.00	7.00	9.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	7.00	4.00	7.00
	6.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	1.00	8.00
	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	8.00	8.00	4.00	9.00
	8.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	3.00	8.00
	-	10.00	10.00	7.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	8.00	1.00	8.00
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>7.40</b>	<b>8.60</b>	<b>8.20</b>	<b>8.20</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>7.80</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>8.00</b>

**TOTAL SCORE 146.40**

13)Use of Native Plant Materials	14)Budget and Cost Effectiveness	15)Capacity to Successfully Complete Work	16)Supports Existing Landscape Level Plans	17)Supports Species Plans	18)Conforms to Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan	19)Conforms to State Wildlife Action Plan
7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
6.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
9.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00

9.00	-	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
<b>7.80</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>8.40</b>	<b>8.20</b>	<b>8.20</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>8.20</b>