

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application Summaries

## FY2012 Round 1

Id	Org Name	Project Name	Org Type	County	Land Own	Activity	Habitat	Acres	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Summary
136	City of Andover	Kelsey Round Lake Park Restoration Project	Gov't	Anoka	Local	Restoration	Prairie	50	\$22,000	\$4,500	The City would like to restore approximately 35 acres of prairie and 15 acres of woodland area in its largest park, Kelsey Round Lake Park, by allowing a diverse array of local ecotype, indigenous plant material to dominate their respective areas. The prairie will be comprised of grasses and forbs and the woodland area will be comprised of trees, shrubs and woodland forbs.
137	Woodcock Minnesota	Young forest for Minnesota Wildlife	NGO	Becker	Federal	Enhancement	Forest	867	\$137,040	\$20,556	Across the Great Lakes region, the acres of young or early successional forest, primarily stands of aspen and birch, are declining. Historically, landscape level disturbance, especially fire, would have maintained this ecosystem as a component of the regional landscape. However, with fire protection as well as a declining forest products industry across Minnesota, this land cover type has declined in the state and across the Great Lakes region. Along with this decline in habitat are declines in species dependent on these ecosystems. Two species currently getting a lot of attention are golden-winged warblers which are declining two percent every year, and American woodcock which have declined approximately two to four percent per year. Other species dependent on this habitat include deer, moose, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and a host of songbirds. This grant will restore young forests on public hunting areas from NW Minnesota to just above the Metro.

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139	Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club/Koochiching SWCD	Rat Root Sediment Control and Spawning Enhancement	NGO	Koochiching	Public Water	Enhancement	FGW	30	\$215,000	\$32,500	<p>The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club (RLSC) has partnered with the Koochiching Soil &amp; Water Conservation District (SWCD) to address the increase in the number of log jams, erosion, and sedimentation along the Rat Root River. All of these water quality factors have led to the decline of the walleye spawning run. ☐</p> <p>☐</p> <p>Currently, efforts are being made through this partnership and the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program to open up log jams in the Rat Root River. Receiving the CPL Grant of 2012 will help to continue opening the remaining log jams in the West branch of the Rat Root River as well as to continue with further activities as follows: Open and remove log jams, implement erosion control, increase walleye spawning substrates and ultimately improve walleye migration.</p>
140	City of Cottage Grove	West Draw Park Prairie Restoration	Gov't	Washington	Local	Restoration	Prairie	15	\$15,000	\$5,000	<p>The West Draw Park Prairie Restoration Project is an effort to restore valuable parkland to its presettlement vegetation. The West Draw Park is part of a main corridor for non-motorized transit, wildlife and educational opportunities. This site is a significant missing link in the city's efforts to create a "prairie belt" through the heart of the community.</p>
145	National Wild Turkey Federation	Cuthrell Oak Savanna Enhancement	NGO	Winona	State	Enhancement	Forest	80	\$36,949	\$4,170	<p>This project will enhance 80 acres of oak savanna habitat within the Whitewater WMA in Winona County, Minnesota by using a Seppi mower (or equivalent) to mow all competing trees and shrubs 4" diameter or less from overgrown savanna. Follow-up chemical treatment in spring will target resprouting invasive vegetation (buckthorn, honeysuckle, etc.). Prescribed fire after that will kill additional sprouts and favor prairie species in the understory. There will be no seeding or planting, as there is sufficient seed bank in the soil and from surviving plants to naturally expand the predominance of prairie species. These management practices have been used successfully by the DNR on nearby sites of similar composition and aspect, and are effective in enhancing oak savanna habitat.</p>

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146	Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District	Klinder Conservation Easement	Gov't	Douglas	Private	Acquisition	FGW	77	\$105,000	\$49,000	The Klinder Conservation Easement proposal is a request for funding to secure a perpetual conservation easement (RIM Easement) on Mr. Klinders property. Mr. Klinder has two parcels totaling 77.2 acres in size. These parcels have been in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for the previous 20 years. Mr. Klinder wishes to enroll this land in a perpetual conservation easement to protect the land perpetually from ever being developed. As mentioned above the site has been previously restored through the CRP program. Wetlands have been restored, trees planted, and grasses established. These parcels will stay in private ownership and maintenance will be responsibility of the landowner, son no additional funds will be needed for continued maintenance.
152	Anoka Conservation District	Typo and Martin Lakes Carp Barriers	Gov't	Anoka	Public Water	Enhancement	Wetland	528	\$129,938	\$25,000	<p>This project will improve aquatic habitat in Martin and Typo Lakes by controlling carp with strategically placed barriers and commercial harvests. Carp are a high percentage of the fish biomass in these waterbodies. They strongly degrade habitat and water quality throughout their feeding and spawning behaviors. Carp control will improve water clarity, increase plants, improve the game fishery, and enhance wildlife opportunities.☐</p> <p>☐</p> <p>Barriers are an effective strategy for carp control because Typo and Martin Lake each provide something important for carp, and moving between the lakes is important to their success. Martin Lake is deeper, and good for overwintering. Typo Lake is shallow and good for spawning. Stopping migrations between the lakes will reduce overwintering survival and spawning success. The barriers alone will achieve this over time, but we will accelerate results with carp harvests.</p>
155	Ruffed Grouse Society	Upper Mississippi Woodcock Improvement Project	NGO	Itasca	Federal	Enhancement	Forest	255	\$73,250	\$26,750	Our project is designed to enhance wildife populations including those of woodcock, grouse, and songbirds by shearing and/or mowing specific plant communities including alder/willow shrublands, brush and forest openings.

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156	Waseca SWCD	LeSueur River/Mantry WMA Buffer	Gov't	Waseca	Private	Acquisition	FGW	49	\$185,046	\$28,968	<p>The proposed 49 acre project site located within the floodplain of the Le Sueur River will be protected by applying a perpetual conservation easement on the property. The tract is contiguous with the recently acquired Manthey WMA and its protection will add significantly to an existing natural corridor of 400+ acres of permanently protected RIM land. Work associated with the project will include converting 33 acres of cultivated ag land to native vegetation, removal of invasive woody species and securing a perpetual easement. The LeSueur River, known as the primary contributor to the sediment load to the Blue Earth River will benefit from a reduction in sediment delivery and restored floodplain function. Other benefits gained from the project would be protecting critical soils from scour erosion, improve water quality and quantity downstream and provide needed habitat for amphibians, shorebirds, deer, pheasant, turkey and aquatic life.</p>
157	Lake County Forestry	Oak Conifer Restoration	Gov't	Lake	County	Restoration	Forest	313	\$115,915	\$17,700	<p>Lake County, a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified land manager, is restoring and enhancing 313 acres by creating mixed hardwood, including oak, and conifer forest stands which provide habitat and food needs for many wildlife species, 35 of which are listed as a Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The project will create multiple areas of a mixture of spruce, pine, and oak within existing Northern Hardwood stands. Increasing the conifer closer to pre-settlement and historic logging is a landscape goal of Northeast Minnesota. Oak is being planted for wildlife food benefits and in an effort to practice adaptive management for climate change. Planting these areas with conifer and oak provides under-represented habitat, provides food for many wildlife species, and prepares for predicted climate change.</p>

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158	City of Anoka	Mississippi River Kings Island Channel Restoration	Gov't	Anoka	Local	Restoration	FGW	9	\$209,450	\$38,000	<p>This project involves the restoration of fish habitat within a 5,000 linear foot side channel of the Mississippi River in the City of Anoka. Along with fish other species that will benefit from the restoration and frequent side channels include amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and mollusks (FEMAT 1993). In the 1960's two land bridges with 36-inch culverts were developed across the channel to allow access for gravel mining on the island. The culverts and other instream obstructions have eliminated the natural transport of fine sediments. As a result the channel depths have been reduced significantly and the pool habitats have filled in with sediments. This project will remove the land bridges, restore the depths of the side channel and expose the gravel bottom (riffle sections) of the stream. There will be 26 root wad structures positioned to restore pool and shelter habitat for fish.</p>
159	Cross Lake Assoc of Pine County	Biohaven floating Islands	NGO	Pine	Public Water	Restoration	FGW	1	\$25,000	\$5,000	<p>Install a Floating Island in the North Bay of Cross Lake where the water only turns around every 400 or so days a year to provide relief from nutrients entering the lake from farms and reduce blue-green algae and also providing a habitat for fish and other aquatic life.</p>
160	Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Inc.	Wild Rice Seeding in central Minnesota	NGO	Wright	Public Water	Enhancement	Wetland	500	\$22,701	\$2,270	<p>In an attempt to improve waterfowl habitat conditions in the state of Minnesota, as well as in response to the increased demand by hunters for better waterfowl hunting, we plan on enhancing approximately 500 acres of existing shallow lake habitat with wild rice in Wright and Sherburne Counties over the next three years (2011-2013). Wild rice (Zizania aquatic) is an annual aquatic plant of Minnesota, which is an essential food for ducks and other water birds, having twice the protein of cereal grains. Wild rice beds also provide shelter and suitable resting areas for both breeding and migrating waterfowl. When thick with wild rice, Minnesota's lakes can support hundreds of thousands of ducks during fall migration. Wild rice beds also provide ideal living conditions for aquatic invertebrates, which not only are the foundation of most aquatic food webs, but are also high energy food for migrating waterfowl.</p>

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161	Friends of the Morris WMD	Big Stone Easement Enhancement	NGO	Big Stone	Private	Enhancement	Prairie	325	\$25,000	\$10,570	This project includes the seeding of crop fields on four habitat easements totaling 93.5 acres and burning three habitat easements totaling 232 acres all in Big Stone County. All of the properties are permanently protected from being plowed up or having the wetlands drained by USFWS Habitat Easements. All seven sites are currently in need of seeding to restore grassland or prescribed burns to stimulate native prairie and set back tree invasion.
162	Waseca SWCD	LeSueur River Bauman	Gov't	Waseca	Private	Acquisition	Prairie	29	\$116,028	\$18,975	The proposed 29 acre site, located within the floodplain of the Le Sueur River, will be protected by applying a perpetual RIM conservation easement on the property. The tract is contiguous with existing 38 acres of diverse permanently protected RIM land. Work associated with this project would include converting and maintaining 19 acres of cultivated ag land to native vegetation, removal of invasive woody species in the maple/oak/basswood woods and securing a perpetual RIM easement on 29 acres. The Le Sueur River, know as the primary contributor to the sediment load to the Blue Earth River, will benefit from the restored floodplain function resulting in a reduction in sediment delivery downstream. Other benefits gained from the project would be protecting critical soils from scour erosion, improving water quality, decreasing downstream flooding and providing significant habitat value for aquatic life, amphibians, shorebirds, deer, songbirds, pheasant and turkeys.

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163	Minnesota Waterfowl Association	Mud Lake headwaters acquisition	NGO	Murray	State	Acquisition	Wetland	40	\$176,120	\$31,080	We are proposing to acquire 40 acres that includes the headwaters of a former named lake (Mud Lake). This acquisition would offer the opportunity to immediately restore 12 acres of the basin and gain a foothold for continuing future restoration of the Mud Lake bed. The property also has CRP grassland that will provide nesting cover for waterfowl and other wildlife. Adjacent to the Mud Lake basin is another former named lake (Clear Lake) so there is high potential for expansion and long-term restoration of these former lakes. In time, an excellent wetland/grassland complex could be developed that would benefit not only waterfowl and wildlife but also provide water quality benefits.
165	National Wild Turkey Federation	Dutch Charley Savanna	NGO	Redwood	State	Restoration	Forest	19	\$10,850	\$6,760	This project will restore and enhance 19 acres of oak savanna habitat within the Dutch Charley Creek WMA in Redwood County, Minnesota by burning a CREP grass field, sowing prairie forb seed, planting shrubs, and planting bur oak seedlings at a rate to create oak savanna. Bur oak seedlings will be protected from herbivory and competition with tree shelters and weed mats. Plantings will include 500 bur oak, 1,000 American hazelnut, 100 gray dogwood, and 500 other mast-bearing shrubs. Shrubs will be closer to the creek riparian area. Routine prescribed fire of the savanna after that, as part of the DNR's regular habitat maintenance program will kill unwanted sprouts and favor prairie species in the understory.
166	MDHA Wahoo Valley Chapter	Dry Sand State WMA - Potlatch Addition	NGO	Wadena	State	Acquisition	Forest	40	\$54,000	\$6,000	Project intent is to acquire a 40 acre in-holding in the Dry Sand WMA from Potlatch. Current primary road access to the remainder of this 700 acre WMA passes through this parcel.
167	MN Pheasants Inc. - Blue Earth County Chapter	Maple River WMA - Volunteer Tree Removal	NGO	Blue Earth	State	Restoration	Prairie	110	\$10,000	\$2,500	Project consists of removal of volunteer tree/brush on the Maple River WMA in Blue Earth County Phase II, 110acres.

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168	Friends of DL Wetland Management District	Wetlands for Wildlife	NGO	Becker	Federal	Restoration	Wetland	75	\$75,000	\$50,000	<p>Across western Minnesota, greater than 99% of wetlands have been drained. One only needs to fly over the area or look at aerial photos to see how radically we have changed the hydrology of this landscape. This has had two effects. First, wetland drainage has removed hundreds of thousands of acres of nesting and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other grassland gamebirds and songbirds. Second, instead of holding water in the watershed in those wetlands, the water flushes into our river systems. The Red River Valley has faced massive floods and flood damage each of the last three years. While this project won't prevent flooding, any water held in the watershed is water that isn't in the Red River during flood season. This work uses the best conservation science to strategically restore wetlands on the landscape to increase waterfowl populations.</p>
169	National Wild Turkey Federation	Bemidji Openings	NGO	Hubbard	County	Enhancement	Forest	259	\$77,614	\$7,828	<p>This project will enhance 258.8 acres of wildlife openings (87 sites) on state and county-managed public lands in Hubbard County, Minnesota by using a small tracked vehicle equipped with a flail mower (or equivalent) to mow all encroaching trees and shrubs 4" diameter or less, and all other vegetation on overgrown existing wildlife openings. Average opening size is less than 3 acres. There will be no seeding or planting, as there is sufficient vegetative cover to maintain the sites. These management practices have been used successfully by the DNR on nearby sites of similar composition, and are effective in maintaining wildlife opening habitat. Care will be taken to not spread invasive species (per Operational Order 113). Openings falling within 600 feet of an eagle nest will not be treated until after nesting season.</p>



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170	Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club	FF WMD grassland restoration	NGO	Grant	Federal	Restoration	Prairie	178	\$16,830	\$1,870	<p>This project will restore a total of 178 ac of cropland to perennial native grasses and forbs. There are two project sites: Art Hawkins WPA (375 ac), Grant Co. with 141 ac of cropland; owned in fee title by F&amp;WS; and a (perpetual)F&amp;WS habitat easement in Otter Tail Co. with 37 ac cropland out of a total of 160 ac parcel. Grant monies will be used to purchase chemical for site prep and additional forbs and grass seed beyond the basic mix to be supplied by US Fish and Wildlife Service. F&amp;WS will also provide in-kind services such as site prep spraying, seeding, and post-seeding mowing. The Otter Tail Co. Chapter of PF is also a partner providing the cash match.</p>
172	Waseca SWCD	LeSueur River - Donahue	Gov't	Waseca	Private	Acquisition	FGW	76	\$248,134	\$39,929	<p>This proposed 76 acre site, located within the floodplain of the Le Sueur River, will be protected by applying a perpetual RIM conservation easement on the property. The tract is contiguous with existing Waseca County riparian land. Work associated with this project would include; converting and maintaining 19 acres of cultivated ag land to native prairie (9 acres) and trees (10 acres); enhancement of 20 acres of existing CRP vegetation; and removal of invasive woody species in the maple/oak/basswood woods. The LeSueur River, know as the primary contributor to the sediment load to the Blue Earth River, will benefit from the restored floodplain function resulting in a reduction in sediment delivery downstream. Other benefits gained from the project would be protecting critical soils from scour erosion, improving water quality, decreasing downstream flooding and providing significant habitat value for aquatic life, amphibians, shorebirds, deer, songbirds, pheasants and turkeys.</p>

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174	Waseca SWCD	Cannon River-Carlson	Gov't	Waseca	Private	Acquisition	Prairie	15	\$58,405	\$6,404	<p>This 15 acre parcel, located in the Cannon River watershed, will be protected by applying a permanent conservation easement on the property. Work associated with the project will include establishing 10 acres of native prairie, removal of woody invasives and disabling tile. This tract is contiguous with DNR Protected Waters (Whitewater Creek) and lies within the Big Woods corridor. Recently, Cannon River Watershed staff (CRWP) identified Whitewater Creek as impaired for fecal coliform and a concern for downstream flooding in the City of Waterville. This project will assist in meeting the CRWP and City of Waterville goals. The proposed riparian buffer will provide habitat for many wildlife species and will enhance aquatic habitat, both in the easement area and downstream.</p>
175	Waseca SWCD	Cannon River - Hagen	Gov't	Waseca	Private	Acquisition	Prairie	8	\$39,462	\$4,166	<p>This 8 acre parcel, located in the Cannon River watershed, will be protected by applying a permanent conservation easement on the property. Work associated with the project include establishing 6 acres to native prairie and disable any tile. This tract is contiguous with DNR Protected Waters (Knutson Lake) and lies within the 900 acre DNR Wildlife Refuge and the Big Woods corridor. Recently, Cannon River Watershed staff (CRWP) identified Waterville Creek as impaired for fecal coliform and a concern for downstream flooding in the City of Waterville. This project will assist in meeting the CRWP and city of Waterville goals. The proposed buffer will support nesting cover for many duck species who frequent Knutson Lake. The diverse natural habitats, Oak forest, emergent marshes and upland within this tract contribute to the value of the area and also contributes directly to the aquatic habitat function downstream.</p>

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176	City of Saint Paul, Dept of Parks and Recreation	Crosby Farm Floodplain Forest Enhancement	Gov't	Ramsey	Local	Enhancement	Forest	30	\$25,000	\$10,950	<p>This program will enhance and manage approximately 30 acres of disturbed floodplain forest in the City of Saint Paul through invasive species removal and control, and reforestation efforts. The project will improve tree canopy diversity, increase connectedness of high-quality forests, increase the probability of a self-sustaining forest community, reduce sedimentation of impaired waterbodies, and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.</p> <p>This program will focus on a significant land parcel in the Mississippi River Critical Area, within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Important Bird Area.</p> <p>Work will be guided by the Crosby Farm Regional Park Ecological Inventory and Restoration Management Plan (January 2005), which identifies well-timed maintenance, site monitoring activities, and overall ecological goals and objectives for the project site.</p>
177	City of Lake St. Croix Beach	City Tree Preservation Project	Gov't	Washington	Local	Restoration	Forest	320	\$25,000	\$2,500	<p>The state of the current economy has a direct affect on city tax collection and revenue generation, causing recent financial hardships. But we have been awarded Tree City USA designation for 15 times in the city's history, and we have a local tree preservation and protection program that is managed by city staff and resident tree inspectors who are certified. As a method to bridge the funding gap and carry out the city's goals to protect its trees, Lake St. Croix Beach is applying for this grant in part as a respectful request for assistance, and in part as a call for help. If the grant is awarded to our city, we will provide measures to preserve our troubled oak trees and ash trees located on public property and remove and replace dead white oak, burr oak, and ash trees. The city also intends to remove invasive species such as buckthorn and siberian elm in its parks and bluff land.</p>

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178	MN Prairie Chicken Society	Increased Prescribed Fire Capacity - WPAs	NGO	Clay	Federal	Enhancement	Prairie	234698	\$397,873	\$59,700	<p>Due to a host of reasons, the natural resources and wildlife management community has not been able to apply fire to the Minnesota landscape at a rate that mimics historic fire return intervals. This has created several problems, most noticeably the encroachment of trees and brush into prairies and grasslands. This grant will dramatically increase the capacity of the USFWS to conduct prescribed fires on public hunting lands in western Minnesota. Additionally, we will oversee low diversity sites with local ecotype seed after the burn. Together, this will increase the quality of prairie grassland habitat in Minnesota, increasing populations of game and non-game species, and provide additional outdoor recreational opportunities for Minnesotans.</p>
179	St. Louis County Land Dept.	Knife River Conifer Release	Gov't	St. Louis	County	Enhancement	Forest	92	\$12,940	\$2,074	<p>This project is to establish longer lived conifers- white spruce, white pine, red pine, and northern white cedar in 92 acre area to the immediate east of Knife River and within 1 mile of Lake Superior.☐</p> <p>Approximately 38,000 conifer were already planted in the Spring of 2011 by contract planters and volunteer community members.☐</p> <p>Requested funding for this project would be used to release the conifers from aspen competition. A hand release method using power equipment rather than herbicide would be used. The project includes bud capping the pine through volunteer groups.</p>

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180	Olmsted County	Lake Shady Acquisition	Gov't	Olmsted	County	Acquisition	FGW	70	\$164,063	\$33,022	<p>Funding will purchase 70.3 acres of land within the former Lake Shady lakebed. This land has been submerged beneath Lake Shady since the construction of the Oronoco dam in 1937. The two parcels that will be purchased were exposed when the September 2010 flood damaged the Oronoco dam beyond repair. The site is located at the confluence of two branches of the Middle Fork Zumbro River and its restoration would greatly benefit fish and the wildlife that rely upon the river corridor. ☒</p> <p>☒ Recognizing the recreational value of the newly exposed lakebed area and the potential fish and wildlife benefits of restoring the area as a natural corridor on the Zumbro River, Olmsted County and the City of Oronoco with the assistance of a consultant and the MN DNR, worked with the community to develop a Master Plan that is the basis for this grant application.</p>
181	Pheasants Forever Chapter #562 Dakota Ringnecks	Vermillion River AMA Prairie Restoration	NGO	Dakota	State	Restoration	Prairie	10	\$5,000	\$500	<p>The reason this project is important is it is an integral part to a long term collaborative effort to provide a habitat corridor along the Vermillion River from Hastings to Farmington and beyond. This effort includes partners such as MN DNR, Dakota County, PF, Trout Unlimited, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District and others.</p>