

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Annual Accomplishment Report Form

Due by September 1st of every year the grant is still active. Report on July 1st of the previous year to- June 30th of the reporting year. Report only on the work accomplished within the Fiscal Year being reported- **this report is not cumulative.**

Contract/ PO Number	Organization	Project Name
56632/3-31491	Heron Lake Watershed District	HLWD Aquatic-Upland Prairie Restoration

Person completing this report	Daytime phone number	Fiscal Year Reporting on
Jan Voit, District Administrator	507-793-2462	FY 2013

I certify that the information contained in this Annual Accomplishment Report is true and accurate and that I am authorized by the organization listed above to complete and submit this report. If at any time this information is no longer accurate, I will contact CPL Grant staff as soon as possible and provide the updated information.

Project Summary (what the overall scope is):

The Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) is located in southwest Minnesota in the Coteau Moraines, which is known to have significant habitat loss, habitat degradation, invasive species, and pollution problems. Through this effort, the HLWD intends to enhance and restore both shallow water and upland habitat in our ownership by converting 16.5 acres from brome grass to DNR prairie specialist approved native upland mix, removing accumulated sediment from 4.8 wetland acres, and implementing an aquatic plating of 0.6 acres.

The project will improve the quality of the habitat currently at the site by increasing the biodiversity of the area through the restoration of the aquatic and upland vegetation. This site is the location of a flood storage project established by the HLWD in 1975. The site has been adversely affected through heavy sedimentation from upland agricultural runoff. In its current condition the site exhibits very low diversity, dominated by non-native vegetation including smooth brome, reed canary grass, and narrow-leaved cattail. At the conclusion of the project, the site will contain a diverse mixture of native vegetation providing the platform for maximum wildlife and water quality benefits.

Narrative description of work completed and what is remaining to complete:

Work completed:

- * Burn plan was completed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The burn was conducted on May 28, 2014.
- * Upland restoration plan assistance was provided by Judy Shulte, Department of Natural Resources
- * Sediment removal was completed on September 14, 2013
- * Aquatic restoration plan is being developed
- * Upland seeding was completed by Catherine Sereg and the HLWD interns on June 10, 2014
- * Aquatic plug planting was completed by Catherine Sereg and the HLWD interns on July 28 and 29, 2014

Work remaining:

- * Annual monitoring and maintenance

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Tell us more about your project (what worked, what didn't, changes made, etc.):

Early fall provide the dry period we needed to complete the sediment removal. Despite not being as dry as we hoped the contractor was able to clean the majority of the accumulated sediment to allow for the aquatic restoration in 2014.

Ross Behrends resigned his position effective December 31, 2013. Catherine Sereg was hired as Watershed Technician on January 1, 2014. She will serve as project lead.

The burn on the project site was conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on May 28, 2014.

Judy Shulte, Prairie Specialist with the DNR, determined there were small, isolated areas of degraded remnant prairie. As a result, the area planned for spreading the excavated sediment was changed and the upland restoration plan was changed. Instead of killing the existing vegetation and reseeding, we will attempt to improve the existing prairie through prescribed burns. The area disturbed during the sediment removal was reseeded to an approved prairie mix on June 10, 2014.

Because there were funds remaining in the native seed line item, Catherine Sereg worked with Jessica Lee to transfer funds from the aquatic seed line item to the aquatic plant line item. To assure a higher success rate, aquatic plant plugs were used instead of aquatic plant seed. The plant plugs for the aquatic seeding arrived on July 28, 2014. The plugs were planted on July 28 and July 29, 2014.

Please list all attachments to accompany this form:

- * Photos after controlled burn
- * Native seeding photos
- * Aquatic planting photos

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Accomplishments: Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Project Site #1

Project site name:	Section 21, Seward Township	County:	Nobles
Land manager/	Catherine Sereg, Watershed Technician		
Acres proposed:	22	Acres completed:	0

Project Site #2

Project site name:	n/a	County:	
Land manager/			
Acres proposed:		Acres completed:	

Project Site #3

Project site name:	n/a	County:	
Land manager/			
Acres proposed:		Acres completed:	

Project Site #4

Project site name:	n/a	County:	
Land manager/			
Acres proposed:		Acres completed:	

Accomplishment Timeline, Table 1

Planned Milestone/ Accomplishment	Original Planned Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Reason For Difference (if any)	Accomplished Acres
sediment removal, deposition area	August - December 2013	September 14, 2013		
burn and grass treatment, site preparation, seeding	Spring 2014	May 28, 2014, June 10, 2014		
aquatic seeding	Spring 2014	July 28 and 29, 2014		
mowing, weed control	Summer/Fall 2014			
weed control	Spring 2015			
mowing, weed control	Summer/Fall 2015			
weed control	Spring 2016			

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Accomplishments by Habitat/ Activity, Table 2

Activity- choose from drop down	Habitat- choose from drop down	Planned Acres	Accomplished Acres	Difference (+/-)	Reason for Difference (if any)
Restoration	Prairie	22	22	0	Sediment removal was completed September 14, 2013; burn completed May 28, 2014; upland seeding completed June 10, 2014

Grant Expenditures by Habitat/ Activity, Table 3

Activity- choose from drop down	Habitat- choose from drop down	Planned Funds	Expended Funds	Difference (+/-)	Reason for Difference (if any)
Restoration	Prairie	\$24,999	\$23,527.38	\$1,471.62	Funds remaining after project installation

Match Expenditures by Habitat/ Activity, Table 4

Activity- choose from drop down	Habitat- choose from drop down	Planned Funds	Expended Funds	Difference (+/-)	Reason for Difference (if any)
Restoration	Prairie	\$8,732.30	\$3,957.51	\$4,774.79	Grant is not complete

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Table 4a. Grant Budget.

Budget Line Items	Original Funds	Expenditure	Difference (+/-)
Personnel			
Contracts	\$18,876.00	\$18,000.00	\$876.00
Travel			
Equipment/Tools	\$6,123.00	\$5,527.38	\$595.62
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition w or wo/ PILT			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$24,999.00	\$23,527.38	\$1,471.62

Table 4b. Match Budget.

Budget Line Items	Original Funds	Expenditure	Difference (+/-)
Personnel	\$7,700.00	\$3,232.13	\$4,467.88
Contracts			
Travel	\$1,032.30	\$725.38	\$306.92
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition w or wo/ PILT			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$8,732.30	\$3,957.51	\$4,774.79