

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Accomplishment Report

Contract/ PO Number	Organization	Project Name

Person completing this report	Daytime phone number	Date

Choose 1:

Annual Report (Due December 31st each year the grant is active)

Final Report (Due upon completion of the project)

I certify that the information contained in this 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):

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

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

Please list all attachments to accompany this form:

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Accomplishments: Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Project Site #1

Project site name:		County:	
Land manager:			
Acres proposed:	Acres previous year(s)		
Acres current year:	Acres remaining		

Project Site #2

Project site name:		County:	
Land manager:			
Acres proposed:	Acres previous year(s)		
Acres current year:	Acres remaining		

Project Site #3

Project site name:		County:	
Land manager:			
Acres proposed:	Acres previous year(s)		
Acres current year:	Acres remaining		

Project Site #4

Project site name:		County:	
Land manager:			
Acres proposed:	Acres previous year(s)		
Acres current year:	Acres remaining		

Accomplishment Timeline, Table 1

Planned Milestone/ Accomplishment	Original Planned Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Reason For Difference (if any)	Accomplished Acres

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Accomplishments by Activity/ Habitat, Table 2

Activity- choose from drop down	Habitat- choose from drop down	Planned Acres	Total Acres To Date	Status	Comments

Grant Expenditures by Activity/ Habitat, Table 3

Activity- choose from drop down	Habitat- choose from drop down	Planned Funds	Expended Funds	Difference (+/-)	Reason for Difference (if any)

Match Expenditures by Activity/ Habitat, Table 4

Activity- choose from drop down	Habitat- choose from drop down	Planned Funds	Expended Funds	Difference (+/-)	Reason for Difference (if any)

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Table 4a. Grant Budget.

Budget Line Items	Original Funds	Expenditure	Difference (+/-)
Personnel			
Contracts			
Travel			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition w or wo/ PILT			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL			

Table 4b. Match Budget.

Budget Line Items	Original Funds	Expenditure	Difference (+/-)
Personnel			
Contracts			
Travel			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition w or wo/ PILT			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL			

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

Before machine removal was to occur, a prescribed burn was planned for March 2023 to assist with removing the hybrid cattail old growth. Poor ice conditions and heavy snow did not allow for the planned burn. The aquatic removal process went forward in August, one month later than the expected start date. Due to the County Highway Department's inability to provide their planned in-kind match contribution through completing the biomass hauling (County match funds will now be in the form of actual cash expenses associated with the culvert installation), Lakes Aquatic Weed Removal (LAWR) was contracted to perform cutting, removal, and hauling. This strategy was less effective in terms of the efficiency of the removal and hauling process. LAWR typically does not conduct the hauling portion of cattail removal projects. Therefore, the time for the hauling and staging process was underestimated, exacerbating the already shortened project window before freeze-up.

Heavy muck subsurface material made up the bulk of the biomass. LAWR spent 97 hours cutting the biomass and over 670 hours collecting the biomass and disturbed muck that gathered on the water's surface. This biomass consistency made it challenging to work with at the drop site, where the wet material altered site accessibility and dozer equipment capacity. To manage these challenges, the biomass required three days of partial draining at the removal site before hauling. Although necessary, this resulted in accumulation and crowding at the work areas. LAWR handled the biomass 2-5 times for this draining and hauling process. Additionally, it became necessary to coordinate an alternative drop site due to landowner coordination issues. Access to the new drop site was dependent on ideal weather conditions. These challenges added significant contractor hours and extended the project timeline for this portion of the project. LAWR's contract required an extension to continue the removal and hauling process.

As work continued through the end of October, the threat of freezing conditions at the removal site became a concern. Kennedy Trucking was contracted to assist with hauling biomass to the County Transfer station. Lacking the time and weather conditions to complete the west portion, LAWR removed a 16ft wide channel through the hybrid cattails on west side of County Road 134 as a temporary solution to assist with water flow through the existing culvert.

The first seeding of wild rice was planned for Fall 2023. As contractors continued the cattail biomass removal process beyond freeze-up, this wild rice seeding will happen in fall 2024. Introduction of native seed mix is on track for spring 2024.

Regardless of the challenges, this stage of the cattail removal appears to have been successful and positive. Landowners' and partner feedback was collected and found to be optimistic about the progress. Support is received for the continuation of removal on the west side of CR 134. Research supports that wild rice is viable in the wetland depth which was recovered after hybrid cattail removal. The community looks forward to the next stages and what this project could mean for the future of Rainy Lake and others in our state.

(See project photos on following pages)



Figure 1 Hybrid cattail mass on east side of CR134. Photo taken before removal on 8/8/2021



Figure 2 Hybrid cattail mass on west side of CR134. Photo taken on 8/8/2021, before removal.



Figure 3 First day of aquatic removal process. Photo taken from the northeast side of the bay, facing south.



Figure 4 Aerial shot of removal process on the east side of CR134. Photo taken 8/9/2023 by Tom Dougherty



Figure 5 Removal process on the east side of CR134



Figure 6 Public access on northeast side of the bay. This access served as the main staging site for removal and piling of biomass



Figure 7 Public access and main staging site for removal and piling of biomass



Figure 8 LWR cattail cutting equipment. Photo submitted by Al Meadows on 8/25/2023



Figure 9 LWR biomass collecting equipment. Photo submitted by Al Meadows on 8/25/2023



Figure 10 Access road to drop site. Photo taken 8/25/2023



Figure 11 South side of biomass drop location. Photo taken 8/25/2023



Figure 12 Public access and main staging site for removal and piling of biomass. Photo taken 10/19/2023



Figure 13 Piles of biomass at the public access. Photo taken 10/19/2023



Figure 14 Piles of biomass at the public access.

Photo taken on 10/19/2023 - 30 yards west of the public access, facing east towards the access



Figure 15 Removal progress on east side of CR134. Photo taken 10/19/2023



Figure 16 Temporary solution - 16ft channel cut through for additional water flow to the culvert on the western portion of the restoration site.

Photo taken 10/23/2023 from CR 134 culvert facing west.



Figure 17 Removal and piling of biomass along CR134. Photo taken on 10/26/2023 - on CR134 facing south.



Figure 18 Biomass piled at the public access. Photo taken on 10/24/2023 – from public access facing west



Figure 19 Biomass piled at the public access. Photo taken on 10/24/2023.



Figure 20 Biomass piled at public access. Photo taken on 10/26/2023



Figure 21 Biomass piled at public access. Photo taken 10/26/2023 - facing west from access



Figure 22 Clean up at the public access. Photo taken 11/1/2023 from top of access facing south.



Figure 23 Clean up at public access. Photo take 11/1/2023 from bottom of access facing northwest.



Figure 24 Resurfaced public access. Photo taken 11/2/2023 facing southwest across public access and east restoration area.



Figure 25 Resurfaced public access. Photo taken 11/2/2023