

Bayview Professional Centre
10850 Traverse Highway
Suite 1111
Traverse City, MI 49684



Phone 231-946-6817
Fax 231-947-5441
info@rivercare.org
www.rivercare.org

Coordinating Sensible Stewardship Of The Land

December 22, 2009

Gregorio Cruz
USDA – NRCS
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 5233-S
PO Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013-2890

RE: Grant 68-3A75-5-192
Final Report and
Reimbursement Request - \$88,091 (request #10 period 4/1/2009 –
9/28/2009)

Dear Mr. ~~Cruz~~ *Gregorio* — *and Happy Holidays to all!*

Enclosed please find the final grant report and final reimbursement request for the Conservation Innovation Grant, entitled: “Northern Michigan Wild Link – An Innovative Tribal Partnership for Regional Habitat Conservation.” It was truly a pleasure to work with you on this exciting project, and I look forward to continuing our work under the FY2008 grant in the projects’ second phase.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me at (231) 946-6817 with any questions.

Sincerely,


Amy Beyer
Director

cc: Hank Henry (Narrative and attachments)
Brian MacMaster (Narrative and attachments, financial status report)
Doug Craven, Little Traverse Bay Bands
Brett Fessell, Grand Traverse Band
Carp/Maple Task Force

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

(Short Form)

(Follow instructions on the back)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted USDA-NRCS	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned By Federal Agency 68-3A75-5-192	OMB Approval No. 0348-0038	Page of 1 pages
3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address, including ZIP code) Conservation Resource Alliance, 10850 Traverse Hwy., Suite 1111, Traverse City, MI 49684			
4. Employer Identification Number 38-2181915	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number CIG	6. Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	7. Basis <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual
8. Funding/Grant Period (See instructions) From: (Month, Day, Year) 10/1/2005	To: (Month, Day, Year) 9/30/2009	9. Period Covered by this Report From: (Month, Day, Year) 4/1/2009	To: (Month, Day, Year) 9/28/2009
10. Transactions:	I Previously Reported	II This Period	III Cumulative
a. Total outlays	1,458,847.00	266,231.00	1,725,078.00
b. Recipient share of outlays	1,046,938.00	178,140.00	1,225,078.00
c. Federal share of outlays	411,909.00	88,091.00	500,000.00
d. Total unliquidated obligations			
e. Recipient share of unliquidated obligations			
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations			
g. Total Federal share(Sum of lines c and f)			500,000.00
h. Total Federal funds authorized for this funding period			500,000.00
i. Unobligated balance of Federal funds(Line h minus line g)			0.00
11. Indirect Expense	a. Type of Rate(Place "X" in appropriate box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisional <input type="checkbox"/> Predetermined <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed		
	b. Rate	c. Base	d. Total Amount 6,970.00
			e. Federal Share 0.00
12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation.			
13. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays and unliquidated obligations are for the purposes set forth in the award documents.			
Typed or Printed Name and Title Amy S. Beyer, Director		Telephone (Area code, number and extension) 231/946-6817	
Signature of Authorized Certifying Official 		Date Report Submitted December 22, 2009	


REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OR REIMBURSEMENT <i>(See instructions on back)</i>		OMB APPROVAL NO. 0348-0004		PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
		1. TYPE OF PAYMENT REQUESTED a. *X* one or both boxes <input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REIMBURSEMENT b. *X* the applicable box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL		2. BASIS OF REQUEST <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCRUAL
3. FEDERAL SPONSORING AGENCY AND ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT TO WHICH THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED USDA-NRCS		4. FEDERAL GRANT OR OTHER IDENTIFYING NUMBER ASSIGNED BY FEDERAL AGENCY 68-3A75-5-192		5. PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NUMBER FOR THIS REQUEST 9
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 38-2181915	7. RECIPIENT'S ACCOUNT NUMBER OR IDENTIFYING NUMBER CIG	8. PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REQUEST FROM (month, day, year) 4/1/2009 TO (month, day, year) 9/28/2009		
9. RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION Name: Conservation Resource Alliance Number and Street: 10850 Traverse Hwy., Suite 1111 City, State and ZIP Code: Traverse City, MI 49684		10. PAYEE (Where check is to be sent if different than item 9) Name: Number and Street: City, State and ZIP Code:		

11. COMPUTATION OF AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENTS/ADVANCES REQUESTED				
PROGRAMS/FUNCTIONS/ACTIVITIES ▶	(a)	(b)	(c)	TOTAL
	Wild Link Program Ac			
a. Total program outlays to date <i>(As of date)</i>	\$ 1,725,078.00	\$	\$	\$ 1,725,078.00
b. Less: Cumulative program income	0.00			0.00
c. Net program outlays (Line a minus line b)	1,725,078.00	0.00	0.00	1,725,078.00
d. Estimated net cash outlays for advance period	0.00			0.00
e. Total (Sum of lines c & d)	1,725,078.00	0.00	0.00	1,725,078.00
f. Non-Federal share of amount on line e	1,225,078.00			1,225,078.00
g. Federal share of amount on line e	500,000.00			500,000.00
h. Federal payments previously requested	411,909.00			411,909.00
i. Federal share now requested (Line g minus line h)	88,091.00	0.00	0.00	88,091.00
j. Advances required by month, when requested by Federal grantor agency for use in making prescheduled advances	1st month			0.00
	2nd month			0.00
	3rd month			0.00

12. ALTERNATE COMPUTATION FOR ADVANCES ONLY	
a. Estimated Federal cash outlays that will be made during period covered by the advance	\$
b. Less: Estimated balance of Federal cash on hand as of beginning of advance period	
c. Amount requested (Line a minus line b)	\$ 0.00

13.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the data on the reverse are correct and that all outlays were made in accordance with the grant conditions or other agreement and that payment is due and has not been previously requested.	SIGNATURE OR AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	DATE REQUEST SUBMITTED December 22, 2009
	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Amy S. Beyer, Director	TELEPHONE (AREA CODE, NUMBER, EXTENSION) 231/946-6817

This space for agency use

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0004), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please type or print legibly. Items 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11e, 11f, 11g, 11i, 12 and 13 are self-explanatory; specific instructions for other items are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Entry</u>
2	Indicate whether request is prepared on cash or accrued expenditure basis. All requests for advances shall be prepared on a cash basis.		activity. If additional columns are needed, use as many additional forms as needed and indicate page number in space provided in upper right; however, the summary totals of all programs, functions, or activities should be shown in the "total" column on the first page.
4	Enter the Federal grant number, or other identifying number assigned by the Federal sponsoring agency. If the advance or reimbursement is for more than one grant or other agreement, insert N/A; then, show the aggregate amounts. On a separate sheet, list each grant or agreement number and the Federal share of outlays made against the grant or agreement.	11a	Enter in "as of date," the month, day, and year of the ending of the accounting period to which this amount applies. Enter program outlays to date (net of refunds, rebates, and discounts), in the appropriate columns. For requests prepared on a cash basis, outlays are the sum of actual cash disbursements for goods and services, the amount of indirect expenses charged, the value of in-kind contributions applied, and the amount of cash advances and payments made to subcontractors and subrecipients. For requests prepared on an accrued expenditure basis, outlays are the sum of the actual cash disbursements, the amount of indirect expenses incurred, and the net increase (or decrease) in the amounts owed by the recipient for goods and other property received and for services performed by employees, contracts, subgrantees and other payees.
6	Enter the employer identification number assigned by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or the FICE (institution) code if requested by the Federal agency.	11b	Enter the cumulative cash income received to date, if requests are prepared on a cash basis. For requests prepared on an accrued expenditure basis, enter the cumulative income earned to date. Under either basis, enter only the amount applicable to program income that was required to be used for the project or program by the terms of the grant or other agreement.
7	This space is reserved for an account number or other identifying number that may be assigned by the recipient.	11d	Only when making requests for advance payments, enter the total estimated amount of cash outlays that will be made during the period covered by the advance.
8	Enter the month, day, and year for the beginning and ending of the period covered in this request. If the request is for an advance or for both an advance and reimbursement, show the period that the advance will cover. If the request is for reimbursement, show the period for which the reimbursement is requested.	13	Complete the certification before submitting this request.
Note:	The Federal sponsoring agencies have the option of requiring recipients to complete items 11 or 12, but not both. Item 12 should be used when only a minimum amount of information is needed to make an advance and outlay information contained in item 11 can be obtained in a timely manner from other reports.		
11	The purpose of the vertical columns (a), (b), and (c) is to provide space for separate cost breakdowns when a project has been planned and budgeted by program, function, or		

Conservation Resource Alliance

INVOICE

10850 Traverse Hwy., Suite 1111
Traverse City, MI 49684
phone: 231-946-6817

DATE: December 22, 2009
INVOICE # Request #10 (final)

FOR: *Conservation
Innovation Grant
Funds 4/1/2009
through 9/28/2009*

To:
Gregorio Cruz

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Project Activity - Summary of Grant Cost Items	
1) Conservation plans and projects	
Personnel Costs	30,000
Contract Costs	5,447
Construction Costs	41,700
Travel	82
Printing, supplies, meeting costs	300
2) Evaluation and data collection	
Personnel Costs	2,000
Supplies, printing, postage	400
3) Field project oversight, public outreach, and grant reporting	
Personnel Costs	2,847
Contract Costs	435
Travel	713
Printing, supplies, meeting costs	2,167
4) Native plants initiative with tribe	
Contract Costs	2,000
TOTAL	\$ 88,091

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact Amy Beyer, Director, ph: 231-946-6817 or amy@rivercare.org

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS
Final Report

Grantee Name:	Conservation Resource Alliance
Project Title:	Northern Michigan Wild Link – An Innovative Tribal Partnership for Regional Habitat Conservation
Project Director:	Amy Beyer
Contact Information:	Phone Number: (231) 946-6817 E-Mail: amy@rivercare.org
Period Covered by Report:	Final Report covering period 1/1/09 through 9/29/09
Project End Date:	9/29/2009

Summary: The overall goal of this project was to demonstrate a unique, efficient delivery system for conservation of natural resources of importance to northern Michigan tribes and communities, including water, fisheries, wildlife, and forests. The approach uses comprehensive resource plans to drive voluntary projects undertaken by landowners in the most critical corridor areas of northern Michigan. This delivery system, titled “Wild Link” concentrates benefits in the most ecologically valuable areas for maximum impact. Practices and habitats of importance to tribes are being integrated into the program. Landowners and local communities are unconcerned with which federal or state program might provide assistance with various projects, because the technical staff of CRA and its regional partners provides planning, coordinating, and fund-directing assistance.

This demonstration project was funded through a \$500,000 grant from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Conservation Innovation Grant program, and designed to leverage a minimum of \$505,000 in non-federal matching funds. A second project phase is currently funded under a second grant, and is being reported separately. This final report is intended to summarize the accomplishments of the first 4-year project.

Project Activities: At conclusion of the project, 67 on-the-ground habitat improvement projects have been completed in a region of high-quality natural resources that support Michigan’s \$18 billion tourism industry, and also provide subsistence for tribes. Projects range from food plots and timber stand improvements to dam removals and stream crossing enhancements that improve habitat.

Monitoring for the project included human dimension, wildlife, and fisheries data collection; annual species surveys conducted by tribes; 1-year project inspections; annual landowner mailings; pre-project and post-project monitoring of select in-stream projects; and an amphibian and reptile habitat evaluation completed in 2009.

Results: At the end of the grant project, 49 private properties and over 9,300 acres of critical corridor lands were involved in Wild Link. Over 215 miles of in-stream habitat was improved, and more than 900 tons per year of sediment loading reduced through the

best management practices. Permanent protection of 180 acres of critical habitat lands was accomplished through cross-referrals to land trust organizations.

Partnerships have been strengthened and documented through formal partnership agreements, and local watershed- and corridor-based advisory committees have tackled larger and more complex projects.

Transferability: The primary transferability aspect of this demonstration project is the delivery system itself. Through the 4-year project period, CRA and its regional partners have developed and shared the highly successful approach with hundreds of other stakeholders and conservation leaders nationally. Most recently, elements of the Wild Link approach have been adopted and replicated widely in the Great Lakes Basin as partners seek to carry out the collaborative restoration strategy requested by the federal administration. This approach was ready-made with near term success stories from this demonstration project, and illustrated how a variety of federal agency and other partners can jointly accomplish large-scale restoration of waterways and habitats. Especially valuable were the elements of the delivery system that involve inventory of problem sites, assessing relative severity and priority, partnership agreements among project proponents, collaborative focused fundraising, and outreach/recognition shared among project partners.

Other specific technical methods and materials that were developed and disseminated in the project include:

- A native plants guide identifying plants of cultural and historical significance to tribes, along with threats and opportunities for protection or restoration of their habitats.
- A methodology for measuring and assessing the effectiveness of predominant best management practices used for sediment reduction in northern Great Lakes streams.
- A program and evaluation framework for documenting the impacts of the overall Wild Link effort.
- Recommendations to optimize in-stream and upland best management practices to specifically benefit amphibians and reptiles.
- Lists of non-traditional practices and costs for practices of importance to tribes in the Farm Bill assistance program in Michigan.
- A new web site element specifically designed to support the efforts of landowners wishing to undertake habitat improvement projects.

Funding: Funding from many different private and public sources has meant concentrated benefits along the critical corridor/wetland and riparian lands of northern Michigan. Matching funds came from States, tribes, local governments, and many varied private and corporate sources, such as Trout Unlimited, private foundations, and landowners. The final funding and leveraging outcome was much stronger than anticipated at the outset, as follows.

Conservation Innovation grant funds:	\$500,000
Non-federal matching funds leveraged:	\$1,225,078*
Other federal funds leveraged:	\$1,043,631

*Non-federal match included \$997,162 cash and \$227,916 of in-kind contribution.

Funding primarily supported habitat improvement projects, including services such as engineering and construction, forestry management, and project materials. Professional staff time costs, and costs for outreach and monitoring also were incurred that related to direct work of CRA's staff with landowners, contractors, communities, and regional partners, different for each of the watershed and corridor areas.

Conclusions: As evidenced by the extent of habitat and ecological improvement, partners involved, and funding leverage, the Wild Link approach is a highly effective framework and should be expanded and replicated. The second phase CIG project will further develop this hypothesis and add to the results on the ground as well as the body of evidence supporting this framework as a highly advantaged delivery system for Farm Bill and other federal programs to accomplish conservation and habitat improvement.

Work performed during the project period covered by this report:

Conservation Plans and Projects on Ecological Corridor Lands - CRA field staff worked with landowners to prepare 1 management plan. This property lies in the Chain of Lakes corridor, which is of particular interest to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and also lies within treaty ceded territory.

Management plans emphasizing timber management were completed for the Steckley property, a 24-acre section of a conservation easement property of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Corridor Habitat Improvement -

The following **implementation projects** were completed in the Maple River, Boardman, Manistee, and Cedar Run Creek corridors:

Shaw property – 220 acres – cleared oaks and disease removal.

Gray property – 80 acres - early successional forest regeneration.

Gilbert Lake property 103 acres.– early successional forest regeneration and tree planting with Girl Scout troop. Created wildlife brush piles at site of early successional forest habitat clearing. Removed excess wood to increase tree regeneration.

Waurzyniak property – 50 acres – cleared oaks, installed 300 tree tubes and mulch on native tree and shrub plantings.

Vanderford property – trimmed apples and cleared oaks.

Distributed native trees and shrubs to 38 landowners through cooperative effort with Saving Birds Through Habitat and Fairmont Minerals carbon offset programs.

Four projects at the Ransom Lake property – 216 acres. , including filling abandoned wells, cut and disposal of beech bark disease infested trees, streambank stabilization and small dam removal; and planting and fencing of 40 northern white cedars using a repeat school group from Troy Athens in southeast Michigan.

Clous property– 120 acres. Removed invasive Glossy Buckthorn and removed seed source.

Ochs property – Transplanted 100 northern white cedars.

Stream Habitat Improvement -

A total of 6 stream habitat improvement projects were completed in the reporting period, including 3 projects within the watersheds of most critical importance to LTBB and the Grand Traverse Band:

- ✓ Pleasantview road timber bridge over the Maple River in Emmet County – this is a priority tribal project that will alleviate one of the worst impact crossings on a high-value coldwater stream with significant fisheries resources that benefit tribal members. Local partners have worked diligently to position the project for large-scale funding (over \$400,000) from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The CIG project completed engineering design, soils testing, and preliminary planning for construction, which is anticipated to occur in the 2010 field season.
- ✓ Large woody debris, native plantings, and stream channel improvements were installed as a final treatment step to complement erosion control and habitat improvement work on Bear Creek in Manistee County. Over 600 feet of stream was treated in this effort, which ultimately reduced the sediment loading to the stream by 270 tons per year. This stream is a high-value coldwater tributary to the big Manistee River, and contributes habitat benefits for native lake sturgeon, a species of prime significance to tribes.
- ✓ A timber bridge was installed to replace the decrepit structures on Otter Creek in Benzie County, which were blocking passage for native brook trout, a species of prime importance to tribes. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians served as a primary cooperator on the project, which included pre- and post-construction monitoring as well as a remote-sensing research effort to determine the migration patterns of the brook trout. The improved stream crossing facilitates fish access to 4 miles of upstream habitat, and reduces the sediment loading by approximately 10 tons per year.
- ✓ Fish habitat was improved through installation of 24 in-stream islands and log raft structures in approximately 1000 feet of the Little Manistee in Lake County, known as the Driftwood Valley area. A variety of public and private partners, especially including several Trout Unlimited Chapters, assisted with financial support and volunteer labor.
- ✓ Possibly the single worst road crossing impact in the Pine River watershed was improved with a major construction effort on the State Road crossing of Silver Creek in Lake County. The Pine River is a national Wild and Scenic River and is

also designated by the State as a Natural River. The crossing improvement involved replacing old, undersized culverts with a much larger single, bottomless structure to facilitate fish access to 4 miles of prime coldwater habitat.

- ✓ The last remaining “severe” erosion site on the Big Sable River in Mason County was treated with fieldstone, whole tree revetments, native plantings, and stream channel enhancements, designed to reduce sediment loading by 115 tons per year and to enhance approximately 15 miles of downstream habitat.

Collectively, these projects enhance 25 miles of stream habitat and reduce sediment delivery by 400 tons per year. In addition, the projects were designed to improve wildlife habitat and overall ecology in the riparian corridor, provided improved recreation access, fish passage, and reduced flooding.

Community Outreach/Publicity and Monitoring/Evaluation –

CRA produced three newsletters highlighting the CIG project, Wild Link, and in-stream corridor projects (two are enclosed, the third is just being printed). Each newsletter was distributed by mail to over 6,000 stakeholders throughout the United States.

CRA program staff presented slides and progress related to Wild Link to several audiences, including the International Woodcock society and the annual Soil and Water Conservation Society conference in Dearborn, Michigan to highlight the CIG project. A project poster was displayed as part of the CIG showcase.

CRA updated its website content at www.rivercare.org to highlight accomplishments and support for Wild Link and in-stream corridor projects.

Two news articles, one describing the Conservation Innovation Grant project and its benefits to local rivers, and the other describing the Wild Link effort to enhance early successional forest habitat, were published by the Petoskey News-Review (enclosed).

Technology Transfer –

NRCS Site Visits - CRA and local partners coordinated site visits to some of the project sites, including a tour of a dam removal project in progress for NRCS technical staff, the State Conservationist, and **USDA Deputy Undersecretary Ann Mills**, who visited northern Michigan in October to speak about the Wild Link and Conservation Innovation Grant effort at CRA’s Biennial meeting.

Poster and technical sessions were presented at the annual Soil and Water Conservation Society conference in Dearborn, Michigan, and the technical seminar presented by Eric Ellis of CRA’s staff resulted in several key exchanges of field forms and funding strategies among program leaders across the country.

Native Plants Initiative – The “Native Plants Initiative” publication of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians was widely disseminated through northern Great

Lakes conservation networks and through NRCS's technology transfer team at the national level. The publication contains photos, common and Anishnaabemowin names, cultural and historic uses, and descriptions of the threats, habitat needs, and opportunities for enhancement for 42 upland and 39 wetland plants native to the tribe's historical territory. It serves as a direct guide for habitat improvement work being carried out in the northern Great Lakes region, and a framework for similar guidance that could be developed in other parts of North America.

Independent assessment of upland and in-stream best management practices and **specific recommendations to optimize those BMPs to benefit amphibians and reptiles**. The assessment resulted in technical notes that are being widely shared with other practitioners, and will be followed in CRA's second CIG project with development of monitoring methods.

Through a related effort, which successfully activated one of three CCPI projects in Michigan, CRA began work on identifying non-traditional practices and cost lists for **practices of importance to tribes in the Farm Bill assistance program** in Michigan. Examples are small dam removals, lamprey research facilities, and timber bridge structures as replacements for road crossings that impair fish habitat and passage.

The new **Wild Link web site** component at www.rivercare.org is being widely promoted and utilized by landowners wishing to undertake habitat improvement projects. Many resources, from technical assistance providers, to independent contractors, materials suppliers, and instructions for projects, are all available online now.

The newly developed **methodology for assessing the effectiveness of soil erosion best management practices in stream restoration** was field-tested with pre-construction data collection at the Otter Creek site where channel restoration and in-stream/stream-crossing improvements are to be completed. This methodology can be viewed or downloaded at: www.liaa.info/crabmp/cramain4045504.asp.

Describe significant results, accomplishments, and lessons learned. Compare actual accomplishments to the project goals in your proposal.

<u>Target Date</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Completed To Date</u>	<u>Actual Completion Date</u>
September 2008 - extended to September 2009	Work one-on-one with 30 – 40 landowners in critical ecological corridors to create Wild Link long term management plans. And implement corridor conservation practices to improve ecological corridor habitat.	10 new management plans and 67 individual projects were completed. At the end of the grant project, 49 private properties and over 9,300 acres of critical corridor lands had been involved in Wild Link. Over 215 miles of in-stream habitat was improved, and more than 900 tons per year of sediment loading reduced.	September 2009
January 2006	Complete Native Plant Initiative	Completed	September 2009
Throughout Project	Collect data to evaluate effectiveness of the Wild Link approach	Human dimension, wildlife, fisheries data collected in 2006; annual species surveys conducted by tribes through 07, 1-year project inspections; annual landowner mailing, pre-project monitoring completed in 2008, post-project monitoring in 2009, amphibian and reptile evaluation completed in 2009	September 2009
September 2008	Develop new technical standards, notes	Wild Link CD, web site enhancement for landowner access, Native Plants publication disseminated, recommendations for BMP optimizing for amphibians and reptiles, NRCS site visits and tribal Farm Bill practices and cost lists developed	September 2009

Describe the work that you anticipate completing in the next six-month period:

N/A – Please note that a second Conservation Innovation Grant awarded in the Fiscal Year 2008 cycle will allow CRA to continue the work. A final report from that phase will include the cumulative results included in this report.

In the space below, provide the following in accordance with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and CIG grant agreement provisions:

- a. A listing of EQIP-eligible producers involved in the project, identified by name and social security number or taxpayer identification number:

none

- b. The dollar amount of any direct or indirect payment made to each individual producer or entity for any structure, vegetative, or management practices. Both biennial and cumulative payment amounts must be submitted.

none

- c. A self-certification statement indicating that each individual or entity receiving a direct or indirect payment for any structural, vegetative, or management practice through this grant is in compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) and highly-erodible lands and wetlands conservation (HEL/WC) compliance provisions of the Farm Bill.

Enclosures:

Petoskey News articles

CRA newsletters

Project completion fact sheets for in-stream projects

Final copy Native Plants Initiative publication

PETOSKEY News-Review

Online Publication, Copyright © 2007, Petoskey News-Review · 319 State St., Petoskey, MI 49770 · (231) 347-2544

Funding benefits local rivers

By Marci Singer News-Review Staff Writer
Tuesday, April 21, 2009 9:59 AM EDT

The Conservation Resource Alliance was recently notified that a second phase of Conservation Innovation Grant funding has been awarded to extend habitat improvement work in Northwest Michigan.

Since 2006, conservation partners have been working on the first phase, a three year, \$500,000 grant project that concentrates habitat improvement in the critical river and wildlife habitat corridors of Northwest Michigan, most notably the Jordan River, the Boyne River and the Maple River, among others.

“The project was designed to demonstrate how conservation benefits can be targeted for maximum impact, focusing on waterways and habitat connections that are important to tribes and many other conservation programs in our region,” said director, Amy Beyer.

“This project is about habitat really,” she added. “Even though it’s a grant program dreamed up for agricultural innovations, in Northern Michigan, subsistence for tribes historically was based on fish and wildlife resources. We’ve recognized that relationship in working with the Department of Agriculture and are targeting areas that are meaningful and beneficial to the tribes and our other partners.”

Wildlife habitat plans and projects have been carried out on private and tribal lands, in some cases stimulating permanent land protection projects. Culturally significant plants and habitats have been integrated into the Wild Link approach, dams have been removed, stream crossings and public access sites have been improved and fisheries habitat have been restored.

“The second grant, also for \$500,000 and another three years, will let us expand and extend the habitat improvement work,” Beyer said. “The Phase 2 grant gives us a great opportunity to continue our locally-driven efforts so that the funding can do the most possible good.”

Together, the two grants total \$1 million and will leverage more than \$1.1 million in state, local and private support.

“We need to recognize that funding for this initiative was competitive. The decision to make this award made by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service to invest in our Wild Link/River Care model is an important clue that high-quality natural resources are a priority in the Great Lakes and in the United States. That is good news for great rivers, not to mention our tribes and all of Northern Michigan,” Beyer said.

PETOSKEY News-Review

Saturday, August 1, 2009

PELLSTON — A wildlife habitat improvement project that involves cutting trees in Emmet County could help grow the number of American woodcock and other species of animals living there.

The work is being done at Maple River Farm near Pellston. It's part of the Conservation Resource Alliance's (CRA) Wild Link program, which helps landowners improve wildlife habitat on their property.

Biologists have put a rotational alder cutting plan in place at Maple River Farm to help regenerate Early Successional Forest Habitat (ESFH).

"The point of the project is to make conditions right for alder to regenerate so it doesn't get outcompeted by other species," said Eric Ellis, Conservation Resource Alliance biologist.

"Once alder is lost it's very difficult to get it back," he said.
- Advertisement -

Species including American woodcock and golden-winged warblers use Early Successional Forest Habitat to nest and raise their young.

"They need it to survive," said Ellis.

Numbers of both species have declined steadily since the 1970s. That decline is blamed on habitat loss.

The work at Maple River Farm involves clear cutting 70-foot-wide strips of alder. Four years later the adjacent 70-foot strip is cut. That pattern continues for 20 years until the first strip is cut again to start a new rotation.

"We want to create different age classes of alder," said Ellis.

"We're not saying old growth forest is bad, but young growth is equally important," he said.

The DNR estimates 56 percent of the Early Successional Forest Habitats in Michigan is on private land. That's why the Conservation Resource Alliance is working with property



Conservation Resource Alliance

Telephone: 231-946-6817

www.rivercare.org

Email: rivercare@chartermi.net



Project Cost: \$9,050

Contributors:

USDA-NRCS CIG

CRA's Regional River Care Fund

* Plus in-kind contributions over \$1,500

Bear Creek - Site #8

May 2007 through May 2009

In 1993, the Bear Creek Watershed Council signed into the partnership agreement with 13 local and private organizations. The Bear Creek Watershed management plan was developed in 2000 with help from these partners. One of the main goals of the management plan is to improve and restore the cold water fishery through streambank restoration and fish habitat improvement structures and/or LWD. In 2006, the Bear Creek streambank inventory was updated and placed in electronic format. The new inventory is web-hosted (www.liaa.info/crabmp/) and available for resource managers as a tool to help prioritize streambank stabilization projects in need of restoration. One of the most severely eroding sites identified in the inventory as a priority for future work was Site #8.

The site is approximately 100 lineal feet by 30 feet in height. Stabilization efforts included fieldstone rip-rap with large woody debris incorporated along the toe of the stream bank and planting the slopes with native shrubs and trees.

Location

Section 31 of Maple Grove
Twp., Manistee Co., MI
N44.35065 ; W86.05121



Best Management Practices:

- streambank stabilization
- log revetments
- native plant revegetation
- stream channel enhancement

Project Benefits:

- Estimated 75 tons/yr reduction in sand loading to the river, benefiting many aquatic and terrestrial species
- Promotion of erosion control work to help attract continued support of river restoration work
- Native plantings improve habitat for wildlife
- Natural resource education, outreach, and hands on experience for high school students

Partners involved:

• Conservation Resource Alliance • Bear Creek Watershed Council • Michigan Department of Environmental Quality • Michigan DNR • USDA-NRCS • Jon and Betsey Sivec



Before



After



Conservation Resource Alliance

Telephone: 231-946-6817

www.rivercare.org

Email: rivercare@chartermi.net

Driftwood Valley-Little Manistee River Project

September, 2008-October, 2009

During an assessment of salmonid habitat on the Little Manistee River it was found there was a pronounced lack of overhead cover in the stretch running through the US Forest Service "Driftwood Valley" campground. CRA, working with partners including the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council, the US Forest Service, and the Pine River and the Kalamazoo Valley Chapters of Trout Unlimited coordinated the implementation of a habitat improvement project. This involved the construction and placement of 24 in-stream islands and log raft structures in approximately 1000' of river.

(photos coming)



Project Cost: \$18,000

Contributors:

Little Manistee Watershed
Conservation Council
US Forest Service
Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of TU
Pine River Chapter of TU
CRA's River Care Fund
NRCS Conservation Innovation
Grant
Plus over \$2,000 in-kind

Location

Section 16 of Elk Township
Lake Co., MI



Best Management Practices:

- fish/macrobenthic habitat enhancement
- streambank stabilization

Project Benefits:

- Improved aesthetics
- increased habitat for both fish and lower trophic level organisms

Partners involved:

- Conservation Resource Alliance
- US Forest Service
- Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council



Conservation Resource Alliance

Telephone: 231-946-6817

www.rivercare.org

Email: info@rivercare.org



Project Cost: \$454,893

Silver Creek/State Road (site P126)

January 2007 through November 2009

The Silver Creek road crossing at State Road, located under a quarter mile upstream from the confluence of Silver Creek and the Pine River, blocks all fish passage from the Pine into Silver Creek, a cold-water tributary and nursery stream for rainbow, brown, and brook trout. Because the site poses no transportation problems, the replacement of the structure is a low priority for the local road commission, particularly in the present economic times. The primary objective of this project was to establish fish passage upstream into Silver Creek from the Pine River by removing a perched culvert and installing a bottomless arch structure. Providing fish passage at the site has been a priority for both the USFS and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division personnel. This project is a great example of how local watershed partnership models can function to come to consensus on appropriate BMPs, obtain funding for implementation, and carry out large scale restoration projects.

Contributors:

USDA Forest Service
MDNR Fisheries - HIA
US Fish & Wildlife Service
National Forest Foundation
CRA's River Care Fund
USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant I
Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 were awarded to this project and administered through the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.
Plus in-kind services over \$5,000

Location

Section 18 of Dover
Township Lake Co., MI
GPS N44.11883 W85.68333



Partners involved:

Conservation Resource Alliance, Lake County Road Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division, USDA Forest Service, National Forest Foundation, Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc., Pine River Watershed Restoration Committee, USDA-NRCS, Wade Trim, Inc.

Best Management Practices:

- removal of perched culvert
- Installation precast concrete arch
- road and ditch runoff control
- pavement and curbing
- revegetation
- stream channel enhancement
- streambank stabilization and scour protection

Project Benefits:

- Enhanced unrestricted passage for fish and other aquatic organisms
- Improved aesthetics
- Reduced flooding potential and maintenance costs
- Improved nutrient and sediment transport



Perched culvert on Silver Creek completely blocking aquatic species passage approximately 300 yards from confluence with Pine River.



The completed structure includes paved approaches, runoff controls, and a clear span of the stream channel with virtually unlimited space for stream flow beneath the structure.



Conservation Resource Alliance

Telephone: 231-946-6817

www.rivercare.org

Email: rivercare@chartermi.net



Project Cost: \$21,000*

Contributors:

Big Sable Watershed Restoration
Committee - Big Sable River Care
USDA - NRCS Conservation
Innovation Grant
CRA's Regional River Care

*plus over \$500 of in-kind and
volunteer support

Partners involved:

• Conservation Resource Alliance • Big Sable Watershed Restoration
Committee • Mason County Fin and Feather Club • Michigan
Department of Environmental Quality • Michigan DNR Fish Division
• Dow Chemical • Kalamazoo Valley Trout Unlimited

Big Sable River - Site #21

June 2008 through September 2009

In 2006, the Big Sable River streambank inventory was updated and placed in electronic format. The new inventory is web-hosted (www.liaa.info/crabmp/) and available for resource managers as a tool to help prioritize streambank stabilization projects in need of restoration. The last severely eroding site identified in the inventory as a priority for future work was Site #21. BSWRC contacted the landowners whom were eager to work with the committee on restoration efforts.

The site is approximately 280 lineal feet by 16 feet in height with the potential to deliver an estimated 115.5 tons of sediments/year. Native trees and shrubs were planted along the slope of the bank to help establish a root system that will also help "hold" the bank in its natural form. This project was designed to reduce sedimentation into the Big Sable River, which will help enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat. Sedimentation is known as the largest non-point pollution source into Northwest Michigan's cold-water natural resources.

Location

Section 20 of Meade Twp.,
Mason Co., MI
N44.11313, W86.12898



Best Management Practices:

- streambank stabilization with fieldstone rip rap and whole tree revetments
- native plant revegetation
- stream channel enhancement

Project Benefits:

- Estimated 115.5 tons/yr reduction in sand loading to the river, benefiting many aquatic and terrestrial species and improving approximately 15 miles of downstream habitat.
- Promotion of erosion control work to help attract continued support of river restoration work
- Native riparian plantings improve habitat for wildlife

Site #21



Before



After