

## Project Portfolio

Minnesota



### Bluffland Restoration

Grant Source: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

#### BACKGROUND

This project will compliment the existing Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) Blufflands Landscape project by targeting public lands, such as the Vinegar Ridge and Money Creek State Forest Areas. LIP assists eligible, private landowners, who wish to voluntarily manage their land to benefit listed species, with the development of habitat management plans and financial assistance for habitat enhancement and restoration. One of the criteria for eligibility for LIP is that the private land is adjacent to or in the vicinity (within 2 miles) of state land but does not include these public lands. Since public lands are excluded from participation, this project will extend the Blufflands Landscape corridor to benefit the Timber rattlesnake and other wildlife species on public lands.

Additionally, this project will complement similar bluff work occurring in several state parks and in the region, making for a landscape-level approach to Timber rattlesnake and bluff prairie conservation in southeastern Minnesota.

#### LOCATION

Southeastern Minnesota

#### ISSUES BEING ADDRESS

The Timber rattlesnake is a state threatened species occurring exclusively in the southeastern Minnesota counties of Goodhue, Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona. Since rattlesnake dens are central to their lives, protecting dens and enhancing surrounding habitat is critical to conserving this species. This project will implement habitat restoration activities directed at reducing the amount of canopy cover to 30% or less around the den sites by controlling invasive plant species such as Eastern red cedar, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and prickly ash. A multiple treatment approach will be utilized that includes hand cutting of red cedars and invasive brush species, prescribed burns, and exotic species control.

#### OBJECTIVES

To restore 120 acres of bluffland habitat by removing red cedar and other invasive species through hand-cutting, prescribed burning and herbicides. Other funds will restore an additional 100 acres of bluffland habitat.

#### PARTNERS

Minnesota DNR

#### FUTURE PLANS

Currently identifying public lands that will receive treatment.

#### TIMEFRAME

Project Start Date: July 2008

Project End Date: July 2009

#### NWTF PROJECT STAFF

Project Manager: Bryan Burhans

NWTF Staff: Dave Neu

#### TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT

\$ 70,000