

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2009 Final Report

Date: July 17, 2013

Program or Project Title: Accelerated Prairie Grassland Wildlife Management Area Acquisition, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$3,913,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(d)

Appropriation Language: \$3,913,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land for wildlife management areas with native prairie or grassland habitats. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Dakota, Martin, Nicollet, Wright, and Yellow Medicine.

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity Type:

- Protect in Fee

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Abstract:

This program protected 810 acres of new wildlife habitat in the Prairie, Deciduous Transition, and Southeast Bluffland ecological sections of Minnesota through fee title acquisition. Title of lands acquired are held by the State and are designated as WMAs.

Activity Detail

Design and Scope of Work:

Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie landscape resulting in drastic declines in grassland dependent wildlife. Examples of species in greatest conservation need in the prairie include American Badger, Grasshopper Sparrow, Northern Pintail, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Prairie grasslands support populations of upland game birds such as pheasants, prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse and a variety of dabbling ducks when associated with prairie wetland complexes. These game populations drive local and statewide hunting recreation and economy. The DNR acquired lands in the prairie, transition moraine, and bluffland ecological sections and has or will restore the grassland complexes by planting native prairie. DNR prioritized acquisitions at sites where there is an existing habitat base in prairie grassland complexes to address habitat fragmentation and to maximize habitat benefits. Collaborative partnerships were promoted in order to acquire key lands. DNR received resolution from the County Board of Commissioners approving all WMA acquisitions .

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Plans Addressed:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Address wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Restore or enhance habitat on state-owned WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and state forests
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

LSOHC Prairie Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes
- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna
- Convert agricultural land to wetland/upland to protect, enhance, or restore existing habitat complexes, such as WMAs
- Protect expiring CRP lands
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

LSOHC Metro Urban Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- No Relationships Listed

Acquisitions that meet similar long-term goals have been funded by ENRTF.

Sustainability and Maintenance:

Lands acquired under this program have been designated as State Wildlife Management Areas under authority of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1978. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by existing staff, CCM crews, temporary project staffing or through vendor contract using traditional habitat project funding, bonding, and future requests for funding from dedicated funding sources. Payment in-lieu of tax payments are made to the counties from biennial appropriations by the Legislature from the general fund.

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- No Programs Listed

Programs in prairie region:

- No Programs Listed

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount: \$3,913,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,781,600	\$3,775,800	\$0	\$410,800	multiple	\$3,781,600	\$4,186,600
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$131,400	\$135,900	\$0	\$16,800	multiple	\$131,400	\$152,700
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$3,913,000	\$3,911,700	\$0	\$427,600	-	\$3,913,000	\$4,339,300

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	160	145	640	665	0	0	0	0	800	810
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	160	145	640	665	0	0	0	0	800	810

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$756,000	\$1,576,400	\$3,157,000	\$2,335,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,913,000	\$3,911,700
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$756,000	\$1,576,400	\$3,157,000	\$2,335,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,913,000	\$3,911,700

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	250	255	0	0	0	0	550	555	0	0	800	810
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	250	255	0	0	0	0	550	555	0	0	800	810

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$1,500,000	\$1,788,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,413,000	\$2,123,600	\$0	\$0	\$3,913,000	\$3,911,700
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,500,000	\$1,788,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,413,000	\$2,123,600	\$0	\$0	\$3,913,000	\$3,911,700

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles (original)

0 miles

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles (final)

0 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Vermillion River, Tr 2A	11419216	110	\$550,000	No	No	Not Applicable

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Four Corners, Tr 1	10332231	162	\$750,000	No	No	Not Applicable

Nicollet

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Swan Lake, Tr 102	11029222	153	\$737,000	No	No	Not Applicable
Swan Lake, Tr 103	11029232	80	\$315,000	No	No	Not Applicable

Wright

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Pelican Lake, Tr 5	12024217	145	\$1,550,000	No	No	Full

Yellow Medicine

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Middle Antelope, Tr 4	03525222	160	\$560,000	No	No	Not Applicable

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Completed Parcel: Four Corners, Tr 1

# of Total Acres:	162
County:	Martin
Township:	103
Range:	32
Direction:	2
Section:	31
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	152
# of Acres: Forest:	10
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shorline:	35 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Fox Lake
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	July 28, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$686,800
Appraised Value:	\$710,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$20,414
Total Project Cost:	\$707,214
Donations:	\$23,200
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Four Corners WMA

Completed Parcel: Middle Antelope, Tr 4

# of Total Acres:	160
County:	Yellow Medicine
Township:	035
Range:	25
Direction:	2
Section:	22
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	110
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	50
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	November 04, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$336,000
Appraised Value:	\$320,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$18,810
Total Project Cost:	\$354,810
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Middle Antelope WMA

Completed Parcel: Pelican Lake, Tr 5

# of Total Acres:	145
County:	Wright
Township:	120
Range:	24
Direction:	2
Section:	17
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	35
# of Acres: Forest:	10
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	100
Amount of Shoreline:	1400 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Pelican Lake
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	September 08, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$1,564,200
Appraised Value:	\$1,422,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$10,088
Total Project Cost:	\$1,574,288
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Pelican Lake WMA

Completed Parcel: Swan Lake, Tr 102

# of Total Acres:	153
County:	Nicollet
Township:	110
Range:	29
Direction:	2
Section:	22
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	59
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	80
Amount of Shoreline:	7000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Rd
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	June 11, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$709,800
Appraised Value:	\$717,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$28,383
Total Project Cost:	\$740,343
Donations:	\$7,200
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Swan Lake WMA

Completed Parcel: Swan Lake, Tr 103

# of Total Acres:	80
County:	Nicollet
Township:	110
Range:	29
Direction:	2
Section:	32
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	25
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	55
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	February 09, 2011
Purchase Price:	\$310,000
Appraised Value:	\$310,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$8,178
Total Project Cost:	\$318,178
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Swan Lake WMA

Completed Parcel: Vermillion River, Tr 2A

# of Total Acres:	110
County:	Dakota
Township:	114
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	16
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	15
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	95
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Price:	\$169,000
Appraised Value:	\$550,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$6,060
Total Project Cost:	\$175,060
Donations:	\$381,000
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Vermillion River WMA