

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2010 Final Report



Date: November 12, 2015

Program or Project Title: Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement, Phase 2

Funds Recommended: \$1,269,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(c)

Appropriation Language: \$1,269,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Trout Unlimited to restore, enhance, and protect cold water river and stream habitats in Minnesota. A list of proposed acquisitions and a list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of restorations and enhancements, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree in writing to each proposed acquisition, restoration, and enhancement. All restorations must comply with subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

County Locations: Dakota, Fillmore, Goodhue, Wabasha, and Winona.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Southeast Forest
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

In-stream and riparian habitat was enhanced along six reaches of coldwater streams located in existing Aquatic Management Areas. The projects improved habitat for both game and non-game fish and wildlife species uniquely associated with coldwater trout streams and expanded recreational opportunities.

Design and scope of work:

Seriously degraded coldwater habitat is an important statewide conservation issue requiring immediate investment through habitat restoration and enhancement projects. The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council identified the restoration and enhancement of coldwater fish habitat a priority action in the L-SOHC Sections in which these projects are located. As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, Minnesota Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") has identified several priority projects for Fiscal Year 2011 funding. MNTU directly restored or enhanced in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in and along these Minnesota waters (counties), all of which are in existing state-owned Aquatic Management Areas:

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);

2. Lost Creek (Fillmore);
3. Pine Creek, reach 1 (Winona);
4. Pine Creek, reach 2 (Winona);
5. Vermilion River (Dakota);
6. West Indian Creek (Wabasha).

Another project, on the North Branch of the Whitewater River, was designed but implementation postponed by DNR Parks so it can rework the design to make the site appear more closely like pre European settlement conditions. Rather than delay the expenditure of OHF funds on the ground, remaining funds budgeted for construction were used to enhance another reach of Pine Creek. This 1,800 foot long reach of enhanced habitat on Pine Creek will support greater numbers of adult trout and likely receive far heavier use than Whitewater River reach would have.

These projects employed the same successful strategy used in the projects done by MNTU chapters and the MNDNR in the past decade. Each project involved the installation of in-stream fish habitat structures, in addition to measures which have reduced stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, and reconnected streams to their flood plains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding. The specific fish habitat restoration or enhancement methods used on each stream varied slightly depending upon the distinct natural resource characteristics of each ecological region, as well as variations in the type and magnitude of poor land uses practices within each watershed. Each project was tailored to the site after close consultation with resource professionals within the Minnesota DNR. The projects were designed and implemented to accomplish a number of these purposes: a) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, b) reconnect streams to their flood plains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, c) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, d) maintain or increase adult trout abundance, e) increase biodiversity for both in-stream and non-game species, f) be long lasting with minimal maintenance required, and g) improve angler access.

Project partners included the MNDNR, Pheasants Forever, and Minnesota citizens. The MNDNR was a key partner on every project, helping to identifying priority project sites, offering professional input on designs, providing permitting review, and other support. Dedicated members of Pheasants Forever accomplished an excellent prairie restoration on the upland areas of the Vermilion River site. We encountered strong support from local communities, local businesses, community clubs, sporting groups, anglers, the MNDNR and the general public.

Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- 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
- Target unique Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife
- 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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Metro / Urban:

- Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems

Southeast Forest:

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

The projects were designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. We do not anticipate that there will be any significant

maintenance required in order to sustain the habitat improvements for several decades. We anticipated that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by local DNR staff, MNTU members, and/or landowners as appropriate. This monitoring will not require separate OHF or other constitutional funding. If some maintenance is needed in the future, possible sources of funding and volunteer labor could include Trout Unlimited, MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, and other grant funds and organizations. The Vermilion River project uses some additional methods on this unique prairie trout stream, but because they are intended to mimic natural habitat forming processes future human intervention should be minimal.

Outcomes:

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators

How will they be measured and evaluated?

The outcome of improved aquatic indicators will be measured over time via fish population surveys conducted by the MNDNR.

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators

How will they be measured and evaluated?

The outcome of improved aquatic indicators will be measured over time via fish population surveys conducted by the MNDNR.

Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$1,269,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$51,000	\$50,800	\$0	\$0		\$51,000	\$50,800
Contracts	\$271,000	\$292,600	\$0	\$0		\$271,000	\$292,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
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	\$445,600	\$502,200	\$0	\$0		\$445,600	\$502,200
Supplies/Materials	\$501,400	\$423,400	\$0	\$0		\$501,400	\$423,400
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,269,000	\$1,269,000	\$0	\$0		\$1,269,000	\$1,269,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Manager (.425 FTE)	0.00	3.00	\$36,500	\$0		\$36,500
Program Coordinator (.125 FTE)	0.00	3.00	\$14,300	\$0		\$14,300
Comptroller (.125 FTE)	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	0.00	6.00	\$50,800	\$0		\$50,800

Output Tables

Table 1a. 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	15	22	0	0	70	52	85	74
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	15	22	0	0	70	52	85	74

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

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	\$24,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,245,000	\$1,268,000	\$1,269,000	\$1,269,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$0	\$0	\$24,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,245,000	\$1,268,000	\$1,269,000	\$1,269,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SEForest (original)	SEForest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	21	27	0	0	64	47	0	0	0	0	85	74
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	21	27	0	0	64	47	0	0	0	0	85	74

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (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	\$84,200	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,184,800	\$1,194,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,269,000	\$1,269,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$84,200	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,184,800	\$1,194,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,269,000	\$1,269,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)

Approximately 4.4

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)

Approximately 4.3

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Vermillion River	11418220	27	\$75,000	Yes	Enhance approximately 2,000 feet and upland

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Lost Creek	10411218	8	\$200,000	Yes	Enhance approximately 3,600 feet

Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Hay Creek	11215226	13	\$186,900	Yes	Enhance 5,500 feet of stream corridor

Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
North Branch Whitewater River	10811232	0	\$19,900	Yes	Design enhancement
West Indian Creek	10911205	10	\$260,400	Yes	Enhance approximately 4,400 feet

Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Pine Creek	10508230	16	\$526,800	Yes	Enhance combined 7,100 feet

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

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: Hay Creek

# of Total Acres:	13
County:	Goodhue
Township:	112
Range:	15
Direction:	2
Section:	26
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	5500 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Hay Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$186,900

Completed Parcel: Lost Creek

# of Total Acres:	8
County:	Fillmore
Township:	104
Range:	11
Direction:	2
Section:	18
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	3600 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Lost Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$200,000

Completed Parcel: North Branch Whitewater River

# of Total Acres:	0
County:	Wabasha
Township:	108
Range:	11
Direction:	2
Section:	32
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	North Branch Whitewater
Has there been signage erected at the site:	No - Project designed only. DNR Parks wants to revise in-house and implement, so project has not been completed. OHF construction budget was shifted to Pine Creek.
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$19,900

Completed Parcel: Pine Creek

# of Total Acres:	16
County:	Winona
Township:	105
Range:	08
Direction:	2
Section:	30
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	7100 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Pine Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$526,800

Completed Parcel: Vermillion River

# of Total Acres:	27
County:	Dakota
Township:	114
Range:	18
Direction:	2
Section:	20
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	22
Amount of Shoreline:	2000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Vermillion River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$75,000

Completed Parcel: West Indian Creek

# of Total Acres:	10
County:	Wabasha
Township:	109
Range:	11
Direction:	2
Section:	05
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	4400 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	West Indian Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$260,400

Parcel Map

Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement, Phase 2

