

Program Title: North Ottawa Impoundment Project Phase V

**Request for Funding Form
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2011**

Program or Project Title: #4 North Ottawa Impoundment Project Phase V

Date: 10-01-2009

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[://mnwatershed.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={752E546E-BBDF-4B05-A5F9-7D33266AC441}](http://mnwatershed.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={752E546E-BBDF-4B05-A5F9-7D33266AC441})

	Council Funding Request	Out-Year Projections of Needs <i>For programs that may want to request OHF funds in future recommendation rounds, complete the columns below. One time requests enter zeros in all 3 fiscal years</i>		
Funds Requested (\$000s)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$3,000,000	0	0	0

A. Summary *Phase V of the North Ottawa Impoundment Project incorporates Natural Resource Enhancements in the impoundment to be managed during non-flood periods. These features include water quality improvement, stream flow augmentation, and feeding and resting areas for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl.*

B. Background Information

- 1. What is the problem or opportunity being addressed?** *The opportunity here includes establishing an area where the shorebirds and waterfowl will have a place to feed and rest during their migration. We will manage the area to provide mudflats for the shorebird migration and shallow flooded vegetation for the waterfowl migration.*
- 2. What action will be taken?** *With these funds we intend to construct an internal control system inside the impoundment, consisting of a series of low head dikes to partition the area off into nine cells and install the necessary structures to be able to move water from one cell to another by gravity when appropriate to do so.*
- 3. Who will take action and when?** *The Bois de Sioux Watershed District is the owner of the project. When a flood is imminent, they will control the outlet structures and use the area to protect downstream areas from flooding. During all other times, we have established a Natural Resource Management Team consisting of MnDNR Wildlife, MPCA, USFWS, Ducks Unlimited, BdSWD and BWSR to develop the strategies for managing the water inside the impoundment. They will make decisions on how to best operate the structures inside to maximize the benefit to the migrating species.*
- 4. How will you coordinate this program with the other Constitutional Funding?** *This is a one-time request for funds to finish the project. No other Constitutional Funding programs will be used for this project because it does not fit the criteria.*
- 5. What specific habitat changes will occur if this item is funded? Be specific about and list multiple benefits if they exist.** *Currently the land in this 3 square mile area is intensively farmed, like all the land around it. By installing and operating Phase V, this land will all be converted to and managed for feeding and resting habitat for the migrating species. Mudflats will be exposed at the appropriate times to attract the shorebirds and natural vegetation will be shallow flooded at the appropriate times for the migrating waterfowl. Slow releases from the impoundment will provide for stream flow augmentation on the Rabbit River, a stream that is currently intermittent. Reducing the velocities of the water that enter the impoundment allows for sediment and nutrients to precipitate out of the water, thus improving the water quality released. Many streams in the Red River Valley are listed as impaired waters due to turbidity including the Rabbit River and the Bois de Sioux River, it's outlet. This management scheme will be a step in the right direction to reduce the turbidity load to these watercourses.*

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6. Will your Outdoor Heritage Fund dollar request complete the planned accomplishments?

☒ X YES

☐ NO

If not, how will you finance completion?

7. How will you pay for the maintenance of the accomplishments? *The Bois de Sioux Watershed collects an ad valorem tax for operations and will continue to do so to maintain this project. USFWS and MnDNR Wildlife agree to provide money annually for the first five years to help offset operating costs as well as in-kind staff to assist with bird counts, vegetation management, and structure operation. The arrangement would be re-evaluated after 5 years and re-considered at that time. In any case, the BdSWD would be able to continue with operations and maintenance.*

8. How does this action directly restore, enhance, or protect prairies, wetlands, forests or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife? *The area in question is three square miles of farmed land right now. We have the ability to hold water there during a flood event, thus reducing damages downstream. Most every spring there will be a need to store flood water. After the flood danger is over in the spring, we can release the stored water in such a fashion that the land could be farmed again. By constructing the Phase V project, we would permanently convert the entire three square miles to managed habitat lands, to be used during all times when there is no flood threat.*

9. If you are restoring or enhancing property, is the activity on permanently protected land?

☒ X YES

☐ NO

If yes briefly describe the kind of protection. *The land is owned in fee title by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District.*

10. How will you ensure transparency and provide information about your work and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars. *The Bois de Sioux Watershed District is required to be audited annually and submit that financial report to the state and others who request it. We also prepare and distribute an annual report of our physical and financial activity for the public to review as required by law.*

- 11. When do you expect to see these changes?** *We would expect to be able to complete the Phase V portion of the North Ottawa Impoundment Project in one construction season. The plans and specifications are complete and we can have a contract awarded within forty five days of receiving an OHC award and funding.*

Phase V would put approximately fifty people to work during the construction of this phase and the associated economic benefits would be realized as well. Area businesses would benefit from the increased fuel business, lodging, food, and entertainment dollars generated by the employees of the construction companies working on this project. On previous contracts, local fuel companies have serviced the site up to twice a day fueling the large and numerous pieces of construction equipment.

We would expect to see results with increased bird use, stream flow augmentation, and water quality improvement immediately upon completion of construction.

- 12. Why will this strategy work?** *This strategy has been developed with the assistance of the natural resource professionals that are members of our North Ottawa Project Team. They are the experts in wildlife habitat management. They have determined that this type of habitat is needed here and will be a positive addition to the landscape. The management capabilities of this project are so flexible, one can react very quickly to an observation and make changes in the manipulation of the structures to maximize the benefit to the wildlife using the area.*

- 13. Who might make decisions that assist or work against achieving the expected impact program?** *Decisions will be made collectively and agreed upon by the team. It is completely understood that when flood events occur, storage of the flood waters will take priority, as outlined in the operations plan, and all internal management would be placed on hold until the flood is over. It is anticipated that this will be frequent during the spring snowmelt and runoff period but very infrequent in the late spring, summer and fall; the time when management for Natural Resource Enhancement would be taking place. We don't foresee any conflicting decisions being made that would work against the impact of this project.*

- 14. If this is acquisition of land, has the local government formally approved the acquisition?** *The land has already been acquired by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. The Flood Damage Reduction portion of this project is complete and operational. This request will not be used for land acquisition, rather for construction of the internal works of Phase V.*

☒ **YES**

☐ **NO**

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15. If this is fee simple acquisition of land, is the land free of any other permanent protection such as a conservation easement?

_____ YES N/A _____ NO

16. If this is an easement acquisition, will the eased land be open for public use? If so what kind of use? *Not an Easement Acquisition. The area is established as a wildlife refuge by the MnDNR. Landowners in the area agree that this will significantly enhance recreational opportunities in the area. This is outlined in the notes from the public hearing held to gain refuge status.*

If easement acquisition, will the easement be a permanent conservation easements as described in MS 2009, Chapter 84C.01, specifically protecting the natural resource values of real property forever?

_____ YES N/A _____ NO

17. If you are proposing funding for a new or ongoing program how long into the future do you expect this program to operate? *This funding request is for construction, one time appropriation.*

_____ 2 _____ Years

18. Which planning sections will you work in? Check all that apply in the list below.

- _____ Northern Forest
- _____ Forest/Prairie Transition
- _____ Southeast Forest
- ___X___ Prairie
- _____ Metropolitan Urbanizing Area

19. Does the request address an urgent conservation opportunity that will be lost if not immediately funded?

___X___ YES _____ NO

If yes, please explain. *Without this funding, the lands within the impoundment will continue to be operated for agricultural production.*

20. Does the request restore and/or enhance habitat on existing state-owned Wildlife or Aquatic Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas?

_____ YES _____ **X** _____ NO

If Yes, list the names of the WMAs and/or SNAs and the acres to be restored and/or enhanced.

21. Is this request based on assessment through a science based strategic planning and evaluation model similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model? N/A

_____ YES _____ **X** _____ NO

If yes explain the model briefly.

22. Explain the scientific foundation for your project, and the benefits it will produce.

- *There are numerous WPA and WMA units in the vicinity of the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Until recently, some of those were operated as refuges, in an attempt to provide a place for migrating species to feed and rest. The refuge status was discontinued due to the sun setting of the program that established it. It is noted that there are less migrating species moving through the area now due to increased hunting pressure. Phase V will restore and enhance the populations of migrating species through the area by once again providing this protected habitat. Sportsmen will benefit by having better hunting opportunities in the surrounding area.*
- *Reduced velocities of water being stored in the project will improve the water quality of the water released by allowing the sediments to precipitate out. This will help to address the turbidity issues on the downstream segment of the Rabbit River, Bois de Sioux River and ultimately the Red River of the North.*
- *We will be able to continuously release up to five cubic feet per second (cfs) to the downstream tributaries during the open water season, thus restoring some base flow to the rivers that are currently intermittent in nature.*

23. How do you set priorities? (Be sure to list the criteria you use and the weight you give each one.) *The management team intends to use adaptive management techniques to establish their priorities for managing the project. Monitoring of use by species and vegetation populations will dictate the decisions made with regard to water level management and vegetation control.*

C. Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans.

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan

This project fits with Habitat Recommendation 5: Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds. Phase V will improve water quality and the habitat needed in the prairie landscape by converting intensively farmed agricultural land to a compatible use as a feeding and resting area for migrating species. The area where the project is located is commonly referred to by the locals as the “Tintah Slough”. 100 years ago, the whole area was a wetland and thriving with wildlife. Many attempts to drain the area were implemented with limited success. This project works toward striking a balance in the area by restoring a large piece of habitat that has been lost to production agriculture.

This project also addresses Land Use Recommendation 5: Reduce stream-bank erosion through reductions in peak flows. By being able to meter the water out over a longer period of time while doing the stream flow augmentation measure, we will be reducing the peak flows on the downstream channels. The Rabbit River, Bois de Sioux River and Red River of the North are all listed as impaired with turbidity as the predominant impairment. Water will have a longer detention time in the impoundment, after being converted from agricultural production, than it currently has. This will allow for more settling of suspended solids and nutrients before it is released in a controlled fashion to the rivers listed above.

Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan (2003)

This proposed restoration project is consistent with flood damage reduction, natural resource enhancement, and water quality goals and objectives in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan.

Red River Basin Mediation Agreement (1998)

This habitat restoration project is consistent with the flood damage reduction and natural resource goals and objectives in the mediation agreement including:

- 3. Provide diversity of habitats (size, shape, connectivity) for stable populations to thrive over a long period of time.*
- 4. Provide connected, integrated habitat including compatible adjacent land uses.*
- 5. Enhance or provide seasonal flow regimes in streams for water supply, water quality, recreation, and support of biotic communities.*
- 6. Provide recreational opportunities.*
- 7. Improve water quality*

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D. Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts	\$3,633,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services	\$367,000		
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$4,000,000		

E. Personnel Details *In the space below list the names, titles and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation. If you will need to fill a position just list the title and amount.*

Title	Name	Amount.
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No new positions will be needed for this project

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F. All Leverage In the table below list the sources and amounts of leverage you anticipate by fiscal year you anticipate receiving it. Include state and non-state leverage.

Source of Non-State Leverage	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Red River Watershed Management Board	\$1,000,000		
TOTAL	\$1,000,000		

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G. Outcomes:

- 1) *In the first table below, quantify the outcomes you plan to achieve with the recommended funds.*
- 2) *In the second table show list the sections where outcomes will occur.*
- 3) *In the third table, allocate your recommended funds to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1.*
- 4) *In the fourth table show the leverage to be applied to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1. and*
- 5) *If you have any outcomes listed in the “protect” row in table 1, account for them according to the type of acquisition and PILT status in table 5*

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				<i>Provide 1200 plus acres of feeding and resting areas for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds</i>
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 2 Sections Impacted and Impact Quantifier	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				<i>Prairie 1200 plus acres</i>
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 3 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				<i>\$4,000,000</i>
Protect				
Enhance				

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Table 4 Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				<i>\$1,000,000</i>
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

H. Accomplishment Time Table Using the headings below, include a clear statement of how much of what is being accomplished and when. Attach a map showing where accomplishments are anticipated. Accomplishments should clearly restore, enhance or protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

Milestone	Date	Measure
Construction of Phase V	10-2011	Complete

**see site plan attached at the end of this document*

I. Relationship to Your Current Budget

With an award of \$3,000,000 we will be able to complete Phase V construction in 2010 and have permanent native vegetation re-introduced by October 2011. As you can see by the copy of the BdSWD CY2010 budget below, our plans for construction rely on outside funding in order to proceed. The District has already contributed an amount to the project and is limited by statute to contribute any more. Note the North Ottawa Project highlights in both the expense and receipt sides of the budget. This accounts for \$3M from the L-SOHC and \$1M from the RRWMB.

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BdSWD 2010 Budget

CY 2010 BUDGET	9-10-2009 Final	
Misc. Administration Expenses		
	-	
Total Misc. Administration Expenses		\$11,000.00
Personnel		
Administrator Salary		\$60,472.09
Assistant Salary		\$45,024.64
Water Quality Technician		
Benefits (costs to the District)		
PERA	\$6,329.80	
Social Security	\$9,141.50	
Benefits	\$25,000.00	
Total Benefits		\$40,471.30
General Operations		
Office Space-Building Fund		\$35,000.00
Mileage - Board		\$4,000.00
Meeting Expenses		\$9,300.00
District Insurance		\$11,500.00
Electricity		\$1,900.00
Utilities		\$500.00
Heating Fuel		\$1,000.00
Telephone Expense		\$3,800.00
Snow Removal		\$1,000.00
Yard Maintenance		\$800.00
Office Maintenance		\$1,400.00
Advertising		\$500.00
Manager Compensation		\$14,000.00

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<i>Legal Services - General</i>	\$25,000.00
<i>Engineering Services - General</i>	\$60,000.00
<i>Accountant Services</i>	\$12,000.00
<i>Postage</i>	\$2,700.00
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$5,500.00
<i>Office Equipment - Leases</i>	\$1,700.00
<i>District Vehicle - fuel</i>	\$2,000.00
<i>District Vehicle - maintenance</i>	\$1,500.00
<i>Equipment</i>	\$5,000.00
Projects	
<i>Legal Services - Project/Ditch Related</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>Engineering Services - Project/Ditch Related</i>	\$450,000.00
<i>Advertising - Project/Ditch Related</i>	\$3,000.00
<i>North Ottawa Construction Phase V</i>	\$4,000,000.00
<i>Redpath Project</i>	\$2,000,000.00
<i>Riverwatch</i>	\$8,000.00
<i>Transfer to RRWMB</i>	\$495,783.53
<i>Stream Gauging</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>Culvert Inventory</i>	\$60,000.00
<i>Other Project Work</i>	\$281,000.00
<i>WRP/SWCD Admin Program</i>	\$60,000.00
Total	\$7,754,851.56
	\$0.00
RECEIPTS	
<i>Administration Costs to Other Funds*</i>	\$493,400.00
<i>North Ottawa Project Income</i>	\$4,000,000.00

Redpath Project Income	\$2,000,000.00
Project Team Income	\$20,000.00
Construction Fund Income	\$991,567.06
General Property Taxes 2010 Administrative Levy	\$249,884.51
Total	\$7,754,851.56

J. How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained? *From the completion date, habitat will be managed by the resource management committee by varying water levels, seeding as necessary, cultivation of necessary cells to add organic materials to the soil and manage for preferred plant species.*

K. Attach a list of your projects listing their county location and edit the map of Minnesota on the next page to show each project as a symbol.

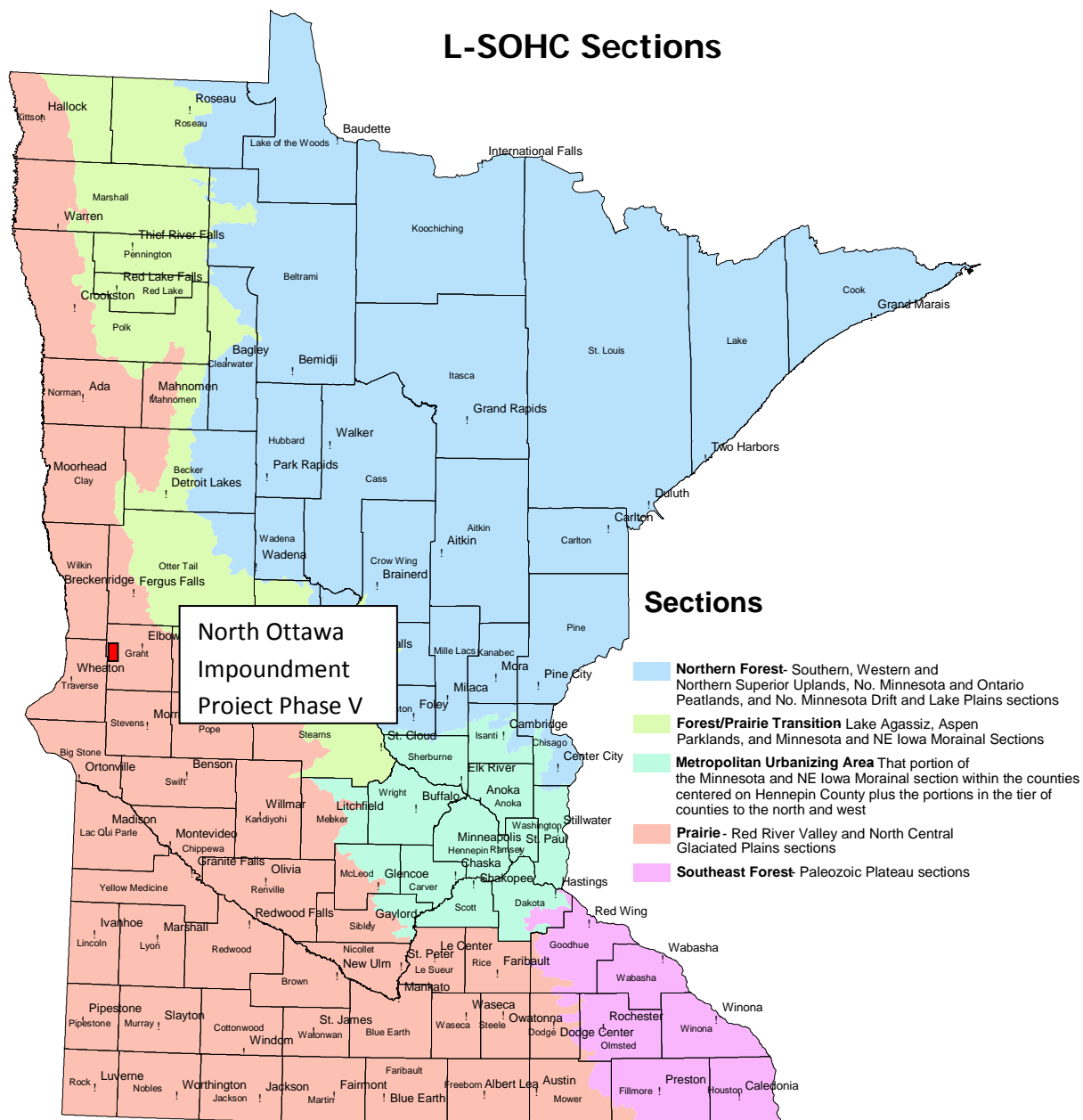
1. North Ottawa Impoundment Project – Phase V – Grant County

Double left click to bring up the map editor. Symbols should be on the left side of the pop-up banner at the top of your screen.

If you can't bring up the interactive map editor follow these instructions:

1. Make a paper copy of the map,
2. By hand place symbols on the map corresponding to the location of the projects in your proposal,
3. Scan the marked map to a pdf, and
4. Insert the marked pdf map as the last page in your submission.

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