

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2011 Final Report



Date: April 25, 2016

Program or Project Title: Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$1,533,000

Manager's Name: Robert McGillivray

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Organization: The Trust for Public Land

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Legislative Citation: ML 2011, First Sp. Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(f)

Appropriation Language: \$1,533,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Trust for Public Land to acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River watershed for wildlife management area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, or aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Le Sueur, and Rice.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Restore
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

This program will protect ~510 acres and restore ~200 acres near Cannon River Headwaters including wetlands, Big Woods forest, and river & shallow lake shoreline to reverse habitat loss, improve watershed function, and provide access

Design and scope of work:

The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase I program acquired over 700 acres of high-quality wetland, remnant Big Woods forest, and Cannon River shoreline habitat for fish, game and wildlife in the Cannon River watershed located within Rice and LeSueur Counties. Protection of two large complexes – Dora Lake WMA and Boyd Sartell WMA -- provided opportunities for public hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation. The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase I project also restored 186 acres of the protected lands.

The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex effort was designed to address the following problems: degradation and loss of quality and diversity of habitat in the prairie section of the State; degradation of water quality in the Cannon River Watershed; and lack of available public lands for hunting and angling opportunities, especially within an hour's drive for over half of the state's population.

Located just south of the Twin Cities metro in an area that has seen development pressure due to the close proximity of the Twin Cities, I-35 and the Upper Cannon Lakes, much of this part of the state has already suffered fragmentation and habitat loss. Historically inhabited by Big Woods, the landscape is now dominated by agricultural fields and, to a lesser extent, development. Agricultural practices and shoreline development are also the major contributors to the impaired status of stretches of the Cannon River and its associated lakes and streams.

The Phase I conservation effort is part of a long-term effort that includes acquisition, protection, and restoration of core parcels of land that will contribute to a large complex of restored prairies, grasslands, wetlands, lakeshore, and river shoreline. The complex is encircled by the Upper Cannon River, starting at its headwaters at Shields Lake where it flows west, then as it flows south and east through the towns of Waterville and Morristown, and then as it heads northeast before reaching the city of Faribault.

The Phase I acquisitions were prioritized toward existing large wetland/upland complexes, rare communities (Big Woods forest, tamarack swamp), shallow lakes, river shoreline, and lands adjacent to existing protected areas. Restoration work has been focused on the degraded portions of the lands acquired and has included conversion of agricultural fields near wetlands, lakes, rivers and existing protected areas back into native habitat.

Protection of the Dora Lake and Boyd Sartell parcels provides critical habitat for game species, including migratory waterfowl (mallards, wood ducks, pintails, lesser scaup), upland birds (dove, turkey, pheasant, and woodcock) white tail deer, and fish (northern pike, bluegills, and walleye). Protection has enabled access for a diversity of recreational experiences including duck, pheasant, turkey and deer hunting as well as river, stream, and lake fishing.

We completed the acquisition of the Dora Lake WMA property on September 30, 2011, with \$1,369,493 of funds from the Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase I. We used \$84,507 from the Phase I program along with funds from Cannon River Phase II (ML 12) to purchase Boyd Sartell Tract 5 which we conveyed to the DNR as an addition to the Boyd Sartell Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on December 20, 2013. Funds for site development work on the Dora Lake WMA have been released to the DNR from Cannon River Phase I and work will be completed in the late fall 2014.

Dora Lake WMA

The Dora Lake WMA acquisition was prioritized because it contains a large upland/wetland complex, Minnesota County Biological Survey- identified features, more than a mile of the Cannon River flowing through the property, and because it is near existing protected areas. Landowner willingness to sell and the threat of parcelization were also taken into consideration.

The parcel is near the Velishek, Diamond Lake, and the proposed LeTamarague WMAs and the Delehanty Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). It has a mosaic of native plant types, including Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) identified remnant Big Woods, and 1.64 miles of naturally flowing Cannon River directly upstream from a concentration of rare freshwater mussels. This tract also provides an opportunity to retire approximately 200 acres of tilled land in a sensitive water quality area and restore them to wetlands, grassland and eventual guided succession to Big Woods. This tract provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreating within a reasonable drive of the Twin Cities and many southern Minnesota communities.

The project received support from a number of citizens, public agencies, lake associations, and hunting, fishing, and conservation groups.

The Trust for Public Land purchased the 510-acre property for a total of \$1,920,000, which was its appraised fair market value, using \$1,369,493 Outdoor Heritage Funds, \$550,000 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and a small but no less significant gift from the Izaak Walton League. TPL then donated the land to the State of Minnesota.

The chart below gives a complete breakdown of project funding.

Dora Lake WMA LeSueur County, MN

Funding Source * Amount of funding for land acquisition Allocated Acreage Recipient of Grant Funds (if applicable)

State Funds

OHF 2011- Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex \$1,369,493 363.77 TPL

ENRTF 2010—Habitat Corridors Partnership \$200,000 53.13 TPL

ENRTF 2009- Habitat Corridors Partnership \$350,000 92.97 TPL

Sub Total \$1,919,493

Private Funds

Izaak Walton League- Owatonna Chapter \$507 .13 TPL

Sub Total \$507

TOTAL \$1,920,000 510.00

* Please note that total ENRTF funding is: \$550,000

total OHF funding is: \$1,369,493

total non-state public funding is: \$0

total private funding is: \$507

TOTAL funding & appraised fair market value of property is: \$1,920,000

DNR was also able to obtain \$44,000 from the Schmidt Foundation and in turkey stamps to help with restoration of the property.

Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 5)

The Trust for Public Land acquired Boyd Sartell tract 5 and conveyed it to the DNR to be part of the Boyd Sartell WMA on December 20, 2013. This property contains diverse marsh habitats and about 100 acres of uplands consisting of oak islands and grassy knolls, Big Woods and tamarack forests.

Acquisition has conserved a high quality emergent marsh complex (as characterized by MCBS) associated with General Shields Lake and Little Mud Lake. The acquisition also protects seasonally flooded wetlands and other key habitats for waterfowl and wetland wildlife ranging from sedge wrens and ring-necked ducks to sandhill cranes and trumpeter swans. The area provides habitat for rare animals and species of conservation need, including colonial waterbirds and Blanding's turtles. The acquisition expands the Boyd Sartell WMA and protects a part of a large, relatively unfragmented habitat area and corridor - a rare entity in south-central Minnesota.

The Trust for Public Land acquired the property for a total of \$817,500 using \$84,507 from Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase I (OHF), as well as funding from Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase II (OHF), and RIM funding.

The chart below gives a complete breakdown of project funding:

Boyd Sartell WMA LeSueur County, MN

Funding Source * Amount of funding for land acquisition costs Allocated Acreage Recipient of Grant Funds (if applicable)

State Funds

OHF 2011- Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex

\$84,507 16.50 TPL

OHF 2012- Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex \$627,493 122.50 TPL

RIM \$105,500 88

Sub Total \$817,500 227

* Please note that total OHF funding is" \$712,000

total RIM funding is : \$105,500

total non-state public funding is \$0

TOTAL funding & appraised fair market value of property is \$817,500

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

- 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
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- 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
- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

This effort is seeking a significant portion of funding for acquisition and restoration work from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Matching funds will be provided from a current appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as part of the Statewide Habitat Corridors Partnership. The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex partners will seek additional restoration funds from the Clean Water Fund if possible as part of its fiscal year 2012 funding cycle.

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

The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex lands have been acquired and conveyed to the DNR who is completing initial site development and restoration work. Costs for this work are included in the IDPs attached to the completed parcel reports. The properties will be managed for the long term as a WMAs and will be maintained by the Minnesota DNR according to their WMA guidelines.

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna
- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected
- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need
- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands
- Water is kept on the land

How will they be measured and evaluated?

Core parcels were identified in partnership with the DNR as well as the partners of the Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex. The two parcels protected under Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex Phase I have biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, and have increased habitat for waterfowl, upland birds and species of greatest conservation need. Dora Lake includes remnant big woods, and approximately 1.64 miles of the Cannon River. Acquisition of Boyd Sartell has protected a high quality emergent marsh complex and wetlands for waterfowl and species of highest conservation need.

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: \$1,533,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$76,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$44,000	Schmidt Foundation, Turkey Stamps	\$126,000	\$44,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,454,000	\$1,454,000	\$276,000	\$655,500	ENRTF, RIM & Private	\$1,730,000	\$2,109,500
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	\$3,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0		\$3,000	\$10,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$69,000	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$69,000
Total	\$1,533,000	\$1,533,000	\$326,000	\$699,500		\$1,859,000	\$2,232,500

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	150	0	25	0	25	0	200	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	200	190	220	182	50	8	40	0	510	380
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	200	190	370	182	75	8	65	0	710	380

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	\$57,000	\$60,000	\$9,500	\$0	\$9,500	\$19,000	\$76,000	\$79,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$567,800	\$567,800	\$624,800	\$621,800	\$145,800	\$145,800	\$118,600	\$118,600	\$1,457,000	\$1,454,000
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	\$567,800	\$567,800	\$681,800	\$681,800	\$155,300	\$145,800	\$128,100	\$137,600	\$1,533,000	\$1,533,000

Table 3. Acres 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	200	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	510	380	0	0	510	380
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	710	380	0	0	710	380

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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$76,000	\$79,000	\$0	\$0	\$76,000	\$79,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,457,000	\$1,454,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,457,000	\$1,454,000
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,533,000	\$1,533,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,533,000	\$1,533,000

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

1.64

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

1.89

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Rice

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 5)	11022202	17	\$712,000	No	yes	yes	fee title acquisition

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements	Description
Dora Lake WMA (tracts 1 & 2)	11023214	364	\$1,369,493	8	barn, sheds	\$2,900	Remove	fee title acquisition

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Completed Parcel: Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 5)

# of Total Acres:	17
County:	Rice
Township:	110
Range:	22
Direction:	2
Section:	02
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	8
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	8
Amount of Shoreline:	1306 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Cannon River; Little Mud Lake
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers (Jeanine Vorland)
Annual Reporting Address:	19499 780th Avenue
Annual Reporting City:	Albert Lea
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55060
Annual Reporting Email:	jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	(507) 379-3401
Purchase Date:	December 20, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$817,500
Appraised Value:	\$817,500
Professional Service Costs:	\$38,054
Assessed Value:	\$538,100
Total Project Cost:	\$817,500
Fees Received:	\$76,100
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	Option Holder
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	MN DNR; Jeanine Vorland

Completed Parcel: Dora Lake WMA (tracts 1 & 2)

# of Total Acres:	364
County:	Le Sueur
Township:	110
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	14
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	182
# of Acres: Forest:	0
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	182
Amount of Shoreline:	8659 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Cannon River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers (Joe Stangel)
Annual Reporting Address:	501 9th Street
Annual Reporting City:	Nicolet
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	56074
Annual Reporting Email:	joseph.stangel@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	507-225-3572
Purchase Date:	September 30, 2011
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$1,920,000
Appraised Value:	\$1,920,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$92,749
Assessed Value:	\$1,576,000
Total Project Cost:	\$1,920,000
Fees Received:	\$51,251
Donations:	\$507
Related Parties:	Option Holder
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Nicolet area Wildlife

Parcel Map

Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex, Phase 1

