

Main Request for Funding Form
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2012

Program or Project Title: Bluffland Restoration

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$ 203,500	0	0	0

Manager's Name: Dave Neu
Organization: National Wild Turkey Federation
Street Address: PO Box 83
City: De Pere **State:** WI **Zip:** 54115
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Organization Web Site: www.nwtf.org

County Location: *[Only need to enter on web form.]*

Ecological Planning Regions: *[check all that apply – to]*

- Northern Forest
 Forest/Prairie Transition
 Southeast Forest
 Prairie
 Metro/Urban

Activity Type: *[check all that apply]*

- Protect
 Restore
 Enhance

Priority Resources addressed by activity: *[check all that apply]*

- Wetlands
 Forests
 Prairie
 Habitat

Project Abstract

This project will enhance 80 acres of bluffland habitat for timber rattlesnakes and other wildlife by removing red cedar and other invasive species from bluff prairies.

Project Narrative

Design and scope of work

The bluffland corridor runs along the Mississippi River across the three counties of Wabasha, Winona, and Houston. Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Strategy for Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare) identifies the Bluffland subsection of southeastern Minnesota as having the highest percentage of species of greatest conservation need, particularly reptiles, with 11 of 15 species considered in great conservation need. This strategy further identifies bluff prairies and oak savannas as two of the rarest habitats remaining across Minnesota.

Wild turkeys utilize the oak/hickory sides of the bluffs for nesting, feeding and roosting sites. The sunny slopes, when open, are utilized for brood rearing because due to the high abundance of insects in the short vegetation. Restoring bluff prairies will improve habitat for turkey populations by creating much needed brood rearing habitat adjacent to nesting cover.

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. During this grant period, approximately 80 acres of timber rattlesnake habitat on public lands will be enhanced.

Through this proposal one of the most critical habitats in Minnesota will be conserved and enhanced. The proposal will focus on the population sustainability of the timber rattlesnake (*C. horridus*), three other at-risk snake species (racer, bullsnake, and hognose snake) and other numerous at-risk plant species in the bluffland subsection of southeastern Minnesota. Wild turkey populations will be sustained and most likely increased due to the creation of critical brood rearing habitat on the bluffs.

The Minnesota DNR conducts reptile surveys and habitat assessments on bluff prairies in the Blufflands subsection of Southeast Minnesota. Survey sites are selected based on an evaluation of Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) native plant community survey data, topographic maps, and aerial photos for the presence of bluff prairies. A second selection criterion is known or potential presence of timber rattlesnakes. Rattlesnake presence or potential is based on evaluation of MCBS reptile

survey data, timber rattlesnake observation reports maintained by the Nongame Wildlife Program, historical information from landowners and wildlife managers, and word of mouth reports. This process allows for targeting survey sites to bluff prairies in timber rattlesnake range. Once sites are selected, surveys occur in the month of May, which is peak emergence time for timber rattlesnakes. During site visits, the bluff prairies are surveyed for the presence of timber rattlesnakes and other reptiles. Sites are also evaluated for their habitat quality for timber rattlesnakes. In addition to reptile surveys, a plant inventory is conducted to document the presence of remnant bluff prairie, and an evaluation of restorability is also conducted, which includes an assessment of the cedar trees and invasive species present on the site. Once surveys are completed, sites are prioritized for restoration. Sites with timber rattlesnakes are of high priority, along with sites adjacent to bluffs with timber rattlesnakes. Wild turkeys are present on most sites, so formal surveys are not conducted for them.

DNR and NWTF will map the sites using GPS/GIS technology. Site-specific restoration plans are then developed and sent to prospective contractors by NWTF. Contractors bid on the sites and are selected by NWTF. Contractor work is monitored by NWTF as the project progresses. NWTF handles the contractor invoices, payments and reimbursement from LSOHC. Future prescribed burning and follow-up invasive species work will be conducted by the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, which is why they are a partner in identifying priority sites. This is done on project sites to rejuvenate the prairie plant species and keep out woody plant encroachment.

Planning

The Driftless Area has been identified in the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan as a primary habitat focus area because of its unique habitats involving oak/hickory and bluff prairie components. This project addresses the Southeast Forest Section Vision priority #3 to “protect, enhance and restore remnant goat prairies”, as well as enhancing habitat for an endangered species.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

This project has been funded in past years by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through LCCMR for work on private lands since 2007.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

All NWTF conservation and outreach programs are provided solely through fundraising and philanthropic means. As a non-profit conservation and hunting organization, volunteers, partners and sponsors work with the National Wild Turkey Federation to accomplish our mission.

Sustainability and Maintenance

DNR will follow up with prescribed burning as needed in subsequent years to keep woody vegetation back and to rejuvenate the bluff prairie plant communities. Future LSOHC requests would be limited to the initial clearing of red cedar and invasive species on new sites on public lands.

Types of Projects

Fee Acquisition Projects

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Easement Acquisition Projects

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Restoration and Enhancement Projects

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Does the activity take place on an Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), or State Forests?

Yes, which ones No, please explain not applicable

If so, please indicate which ones: State Forest – Wet Bark Unit, Crooked Creek Unit, Winnebago Unit

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
GPS map sites with DNR	Produce aerial photos with sites outlined and management practices described	July-August 2010
Solicit bids from contractors	Receive bids	Sept-Oct 2010
Hire contractors (acquire appropriate paperwork & clearances)	Finalize contracts and assign projects	Sept-Oct 2010
Oversee contractor work, process invoices and payments	Contractor work completed and invoices processed	Nov 2010-March 2011
Final site visits, close out project, request reimbursement	Receive reimbursement	June 30, 2011

Attachments: *[Attach these documents to the web application form.]*

- A. Budget**
- B. Proposed Outcome Tables 1-5**
- C. Map**
- D. Parcel List**

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

[Link Here to definitions of the budget items below.](#)

Total Amount of Request \$ 203,500 *From page 1 on the funding form.*

Personnel

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
<i>Manager of Programs</i>	0.2	1	\$ 18,000			\$ 18,000
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	0.2		\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000

Budget and Cash Leverage *(All your LSOHC Request Funds must be direct to and necessary for program outcomes.)*

Please describe how you intend to spend the requested funds.

Budget Item	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel - auto entered from above	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000
Contracts	\$ 171,000			\$ 171,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>				\$ -
Easement Acquisition				\$ -
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)	\$ 12,000	\$ 9,600	<i>out of state travel for</i>	\$ 21,600
Professional Services	\$ 2,500			\$ 2,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment				\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 203,500	\$ 9,600	\$ -	\$ 213,100

Attachment B. Proposed Outcome Tables

Only enter data in the outlined cells

Table 1 and Table 3 column totals should be the same AND Table 2 and Table 4 column totals should be the same

If your project has lakes or shoreline miles instead of land acres, convert miles to acres for Tables 1 and 3 using the following conversion:

Lakeshore = 6 acres per lakeshore mile / Stream & River Shore = 12 acres per linear mile, if both sides

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Describe the scope of the project in acres (use conversion above if needed)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore				80	80
Protect					0
Enhance					0
Total	0	0	0	80	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

80 *These two cells should*

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

80 *be the same figure.*

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore				\$ 203,500	\$ 203,500
Protect					\$ -
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203,500	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 203,500 *These two cells should*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 203,500 *be the same figure.*

Check to make sure this amount is the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore			80			80
Protect						0
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	80	0	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

80 *These three cells*

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

80 *should be the same*

Total Acres from Table 1.

80 *figure.*

Attachment B. Proposed Outcome Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore			\$ 203,500			\$ 203,500
Protect						\$ -
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203,500	\$ -	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 203,500 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 203,500
 Check to make sure these amounts are the same
 as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

miles of Lakes / Streams / Rivers Shoreline

Table 6. Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in acres)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					0
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					0

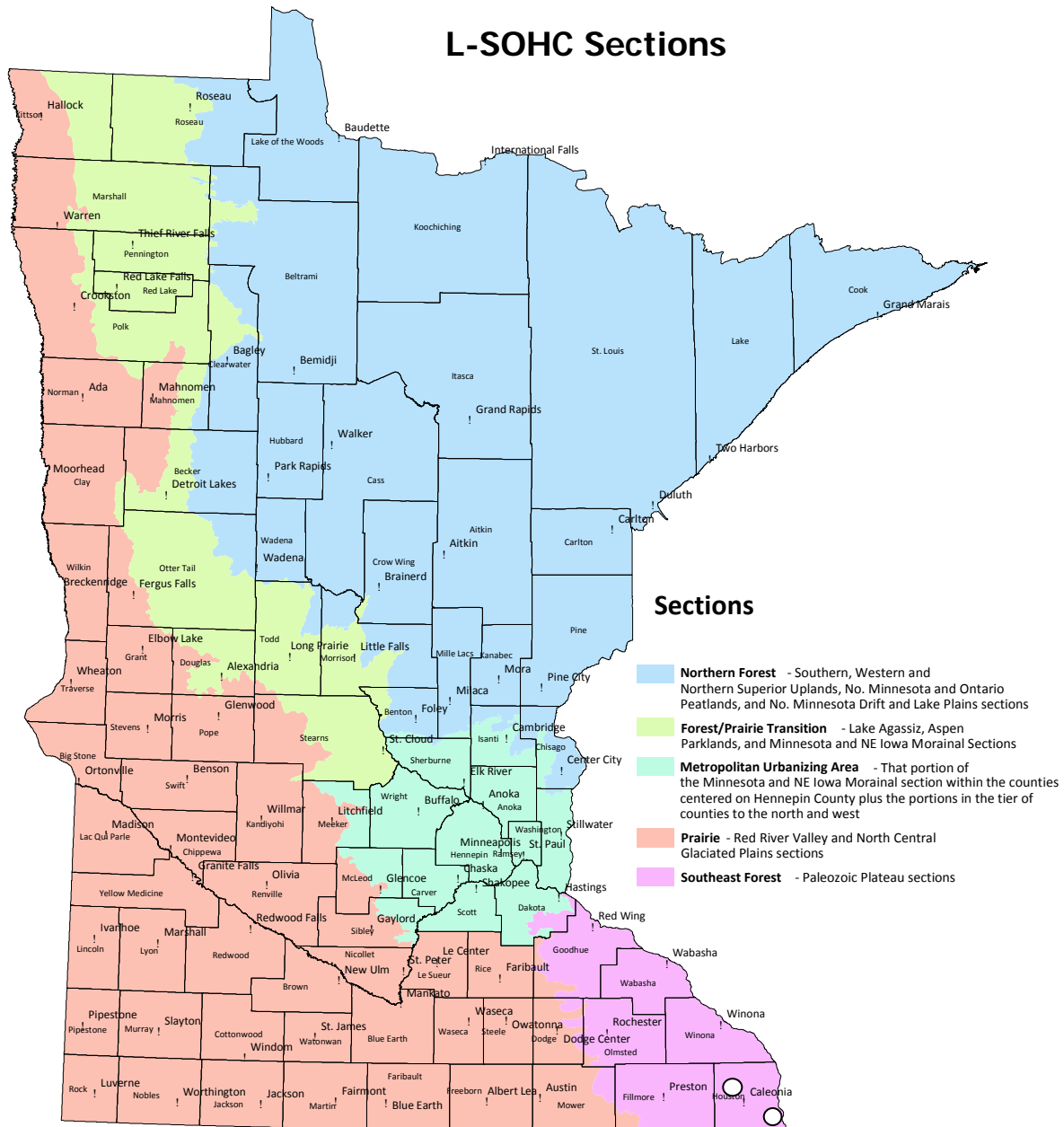
Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					\$ -

Attachment C.

Instructions: 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 or at the bottom left depending on your software.

If you can't bring up the interactive map editor: 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, 4) Attach to web form.



Attachment D. Parcel List

Blufland Restoration

Parcel Name	County	Township	Range	Direction	Section	TRDS	# of acres	Budgetary Estimate (includes administrative, restoration or other related costs and do not include matching money contributed or earned by the transaction)	Description	Activity R=Restore P=Protect E=Enhance	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)
State Forest - Wet Bar Unit	Houston	103	7	2	13,14,15	10372131415	50		Bluff prairie	E	Y	Y
State Forest - Crooked Creek Unit	Houston	102	4	2	22	1024222	20		Bluff prairie	E	Y	Y
State Forest - Winnebago Unit	Houston	101	4	2	19	1037224	10		Bluff prairie	E	Y	Y