

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

Program or Project Title: Restoring Native Habitat/Water Quality to the Shell Rock River

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$ 2,576,500	0	0	0

Manager's Name: Andy Henschel, Watershed Conservationist
Organization: Shell Rock River Watershed District
Street Address: 411 S Broadway PO Box 1147
City: Albert Lea **State:** MN **Zip:** 56007-1147
Telephone: 507-379-2964
E-Mail: andy.henschel@co.freeborn.mn.us
Organization Web Site: www.shellrock.org

County Location: Freeborn

Ecological Planning Regions:

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

Activity Type:

- Protect Restore Enhance

Priority Resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands Forests Prairie Habitat

Project Abstract

The SRRWD has proposed acquiring fee title to 257 acres of land that encompasses the headwaters of the Shell Rock River and develop long range resource management for recreation opportunities.

Project Narrative

Design and scope of work

Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) Management Plan developed in 2004 has identified goals for accelerating programs for improved habitat, water quality and flood control. Acquiring the 257 acre parcel allows SRRWD to meet these goals and open opportunities for the public that includes recreation, hunting, fishing and educational experiences incorporated in the habitat and recreational development plan for the project.

The project is time sensitive, it is essential to secure a US Army Corps of Engineers 206 Federal Grant for replacement of the current dam that controls the water level for Albert Lea Lake at the headwaters of the Shell Rock River which continues to flow south through the middle of the parcel to be purchased. The currently dam is in disrepair and at risk of failure. Requirements of the USCOE 206 Grant include that the watershed district owns the property adjoining the dam. The variable crest dam will allow for management of game fish and rough fish passage and the ability to manage water levels facilitating shoreline and littoral area restoration of Albert Lea Lake.

The 257 acre parcel has various natural amenities that include the headwaters and 1.4 miles of the River, floodplain and mesic hardwood forest, undisturbed highly diversified wetland complexes and riparian and stream bank corridor on a parcel that is a mile long and approximately ½ mile wide. Parts of the site have undisturbed native plant communities, other parts are thought to have pre-historic Native American habitation sites and others have already been mined for sand and gravel. Opportunities of native habitat restoration for the parcel include seed bank development, wetland creation and restoration, native prairie establishment, floodplain forest and mesic forest restoration and shoreland restoration of the Shell Rock River. The parcel can provide unique recreational opportunities to utilize the River for canoeing, tubing and fishing; the lands can be developed with nature trails, interpretative programs about ecology, water and archeology and both day use and camping can be developed. The development of a resource inventory and management plan would address all the opportunities for public ownership and public use of the parcel.

The habitat development portion of the plan includes protection, preservation and enhancement of the existing natural resources, which includes wetland and forest restoration, sediment retention, aquatic and shoreline restorations. The Plan also includes restorations and habitat structures for amphibians and reptiles, aggregate resource and sand pit restoration plans. The Watershed District will work in conjunction with local DNR fish and wildlife agencies to establish a fisheries management plan for the Shell Rock River, a fish rearing basin and wetland habitats, located on the existing site. The recreation development portion of the plan includes walking trails with interpretive information and recreational access. These will all be elements of the development plan. The Long-term Habitat Management plan will be identifying the baseline environmental conditions on site, the conditions proposed for the project and how these conditions will be maintained in the future.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District will be the fiscal agent receiving funds for the project with the following local agencies providing technical input and assistance: Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District, Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service, Freeborn County, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Albert Lea.

Planning

This project would be working under the following published resource management plans;

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan Phase II provisions that address the control of invasive species, the restoration of shallow lakes, water quality improvements in impaired waters and the protection and enhancement of fish and waterfowl breeding habitat (pg 57-90).

The 2004 Shell Rock River Watershed Management Plan addresses the project as a top priority (Appendix E, F &J).

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Control Program.

Freeborn County Comprehensive Water Plan

These projects are within the stated goals of the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM)

Endorsed by local Chamber of Commerce and Sportsmen's Club

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

After acquisition, this project will co-ordinate with another grant opportunity, a US Army Corps of Engineers 206 Federal Grant. A \$4.8 million grant for replacement of the current dam and ecosystem restoration. The USCOE 206 Grant requires the District owns the property adjoining the dam. The variable crest dam will allow for management of game fish and rough fish passage and the ability to manage water levels, facilitating shoreline and littoral area restoration of Albert Lea Lake. As part of the purchase agreement for the 257 acre land parcel the landowner has agreed to donate an additional 70 acres of land to the SRRWD. This proposed donation is within the statutory boundary of Helmer Myre State Park and would allow for habitat restoration and expanded public use, possibly as an extension of Helmer Myre State Park. The SRRWD will provide \$2.6 million in funding and/or in-kind services. The project is time sensitive, it is essential the District acquire this land to secure the 206 Federal Grant.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

Acquisition of these parcels will be provided through L-SOHC funding. The purchase is essential to secure the US Army Corps of Engineers 206 Federal Grant. The District currently operates under \$2 million annual budget and has the matching funds available. The District has budgeted funds for a small portion of the overall proposed project and for continued annual maintenance.

Sustainability and Maintenance

Future long-term priorities for the project include natural resource restoration, management and enhancement, in addition future facility development that may include campgrounds, walking trails, canoe access and various other amenities determined in the habitat and recreation development plan efforts. Requests in the future to the LSOHC and LCCMR for this project could include continued requests for acquisition funds, natural resource restoration funds for the purpose of restoring and managing plant communities and recreation development funds for future project facilities.

Long-term costs and maintenance of the property are part of the operating budget for the SRRWD, which derives its financial support from local option sales tax, grants and donations. The district has a public budgeting process. The land for all of the installations will be owned by the SRRWD and will not generate a tax liability or an in-lieu of tax obligation.

Types of Projects

Fee Acquisition Projects

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

X Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

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

X 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 X not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

Yes No, please explain X not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Restoration and Enhancement Projects

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

X 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 X not applicable

If so, please indicate which ones:

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
<i>257 Acre Land Acquisition</i>	#1	August 31, 2012
<i>Habitat and Recreation Development/Management Plan</i>	#2	December 31, 2012

Attachments:

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

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request \$ 2,576,500 *From page 1 on the funding form.*

Personnel

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash		Total
				Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	
<i>Manager of Programs</i>	0.5			\$ 40,300	<i>SRRWD Sales Tax</i>	\$ 40,300
<i>Admin Asst</i>	0.2			\$ 10,400	<i>SRRWD Sales Tax</i>	\$ 10,400
<i>Technician</i>	0.3			\$ 18,700	<i>SRRWD Sales Tax</i>	\$ 18,700
<i>position 4</i>						\$ -
<i>position 5</i>						\$ -
<i>position 6</i>						\$ -
<i>position 7</i>						\$ -
Total			\$ -	\$ 69,400	\$ -	\$ 69,400

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		Total
		Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	
Personnel - auto entered from above	\$ -	\$ 69,400	\$ -	\$ 69,400
Contracts				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>	\$ 2,560,000	\$ 280,000	<i>Landowner Donation</i>	\$ 2,840,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>				\$ -
Easement Acquisition				\$ -
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)				\$ -
Professional Services	\$ 17,000	\$ 23,000	<i>SRRWD Sales Tax</i>	\$ 40,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ 7,551,600
Capital Equipment		\$ 7,486,000	<i>206 Federal Grant</i>	\$ 7,486,000
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials		\$ 65,600	<i>SRRWD Sales Tax</i>	\$ 65,600
	\$ 2,577,000	\$ 7,924,000	\$ -	\$ 10,501,000

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					0
Protect	20	0	100	137	257
Enhance				0	0
Total	20	0	100	137	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

257

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

257

These two cells should be the same figure.

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect	\$ 100,000			\$ 2,477,000	\$ 2,577,000
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,477,000	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 2,577,000

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 2,577,000

These two cells should 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				57		57
Protect				100		100
Enhance				100		100
Total	0	0	0	257	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

257

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

257

Total Acres from Table 1.

257

These three cells should be the same 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						\$ -
Protect				\$ 2,560,000		\$ 2,560,000
Enhance				\$ 17,000		\$ 17,000
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,577,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 2,577,000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 2,577,000

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)

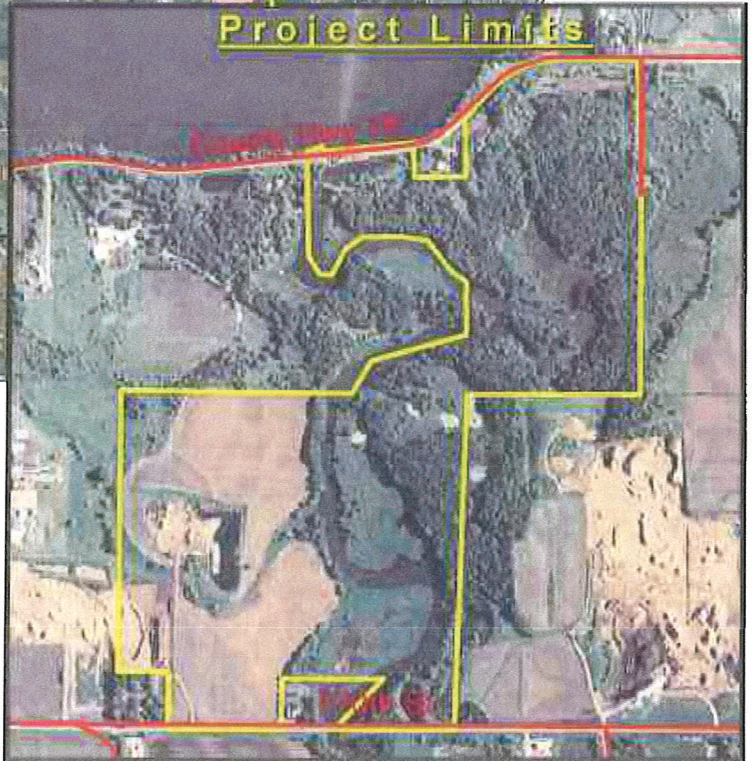
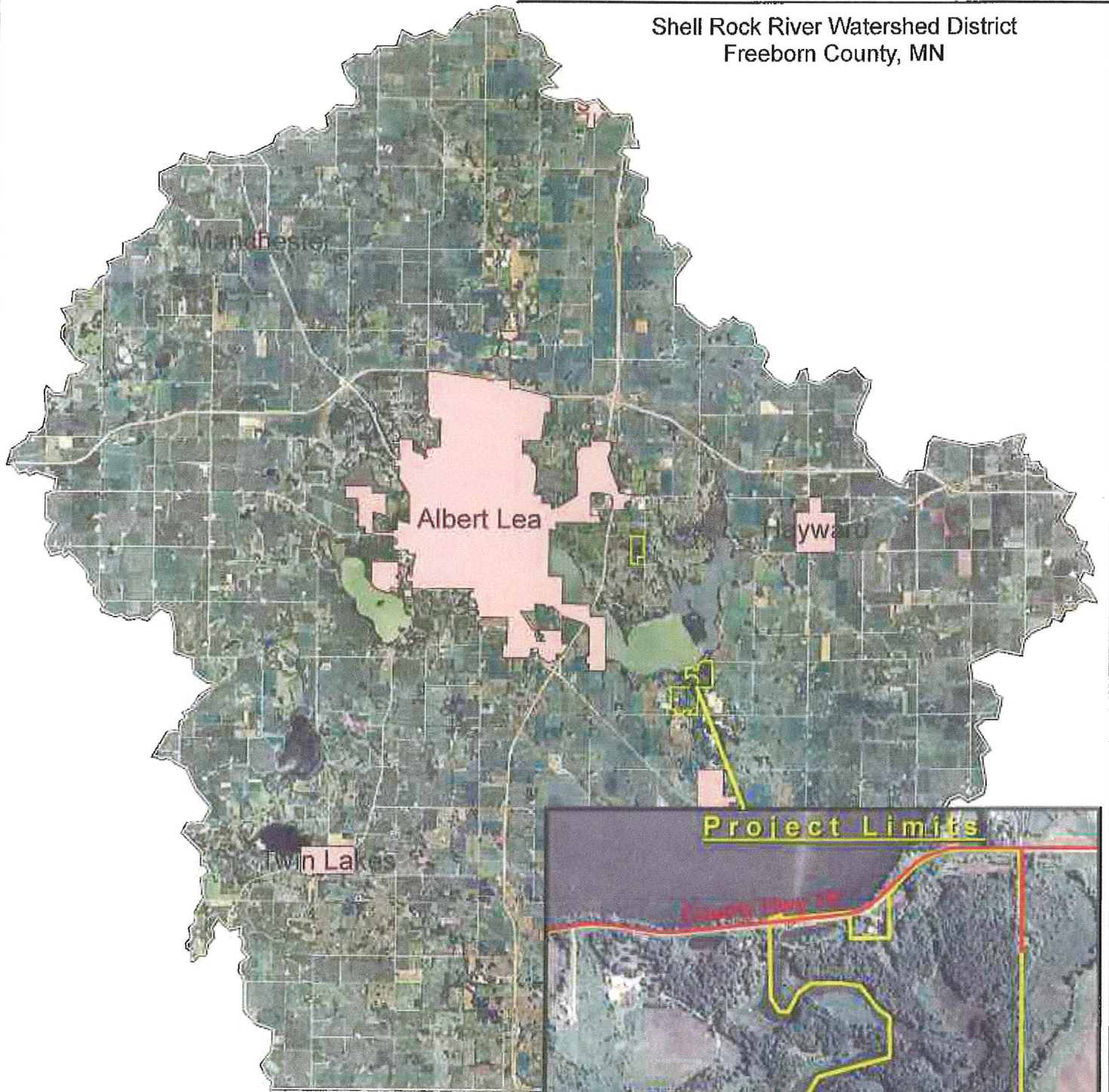
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					0
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability		257			257
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					0

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		\$ 2,560,000			\$ 2,560,000
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					\$ -

Restoring Native Habitats and Water Quality to the Head Waters of Shell Rock River

Shell Rock River Watershed District
Freeborn County, MN



1 inch equals 13,576 feet

Attachment D. Parcel List

Program Title : Restoring Native Habitat/Water Quality to Shell Rock River

Parcel Name	County	Township	Range	Direction	Section	TRDS	# of acres	Estimated Cost to OHF	Description	Activity R=Restore P=Protect E=Enhance	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)
Parcel 08-025-0044	Freeborn	102	21	2	25	10221225	17.46	\$174,080		R,P,E	No	Yes
Parcel 07-030-0071	Freeborn	102	20	2	30	10220230	29.4	\$294,400		R,P,E	No	Yes
Parcel 07-030-0050	Freeborn	102	20	2	30	10220230	40.87	\$407,040		R,P,E	No	Yes
Parcel 07-030-0080	Freeborn	102	20	2	30	10220230	9.87	\$97,280		R,P,E	No	Yes
Parcel 08-25-0030	Freeborn	102	21	2	25	10221225	40	\$396,800		R,P,E	No	Yes
Parcel 08-25-0043	Freeborn	102	21	2	25	10221225	6.53	\$66,560		R,P,E	No	Yes
Parcel 08-25-0021	Freeborn	102	21	2	25	10221225	112.87	\$1,123,840		R,P,E	No	Yes