

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2012 Accomplishment Plan

Date: 10/21/2011

Program Title: Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project

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Funds Recommended: \$2,320,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. X, Art. X, Sec. X, Subd. 5 (f): *(to be completed when signed by Governor)*

Abstract:

Directly restore six miles of stream habitat, the hydrologic conditions needed to support 400 acres of habitat corridor, and effectively reconnect more than 20 miles of the Grand Marais Creek.

Program Narrative

Design and Scope of Work

Six miles of natural stream habitat on Grand Marais Creek, were bypassed with a legal drainage ditch in the early 1900s. This action resulted in the complete loss of six miles of riverine and riparian corridor habitat, and diminished opportunities for fish passage to and from Red River and Grand Marais Creek. The Red Lake Watershed District, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies have initiated a comprehensive watershed project and are now ready to restore the natural stream channel and water flow to these six miles of disconnected aquatic habitat. Preliminary engineering is complete, environmental review is complete, and most land acquisition is complete. This six mile restoration is one of the greatest opportunities to directly restore stream habitat in the Red River of the North basin.

This project will: 1) restore six miles of natural channel based on sound scientific principles of natural channel design, hydrology, and fluvial geomorphology, 2) restore a range of stream flows with a water control structure that will be operated to sustain aquatic habitat conditions in the channel and 400 acres of riparian corridor habitats, which were abandoned and mostly farmed for the past 50+ years.

The project will restore permanent and seasonal spawning and juvenile habitat to a variety of fish species, including northern pike and channel catfish. Additional project benefits include restoration of permanent and seasonal habitats for many aquatic and terrestrial plant and upland animal species that depend on healthy riparian corridor habitat (already acquired through RIM). The restored channel corridor will also provide a more functional, reliable connection between the Red River and more than 20 miles of upstream riverine and wetland habitats in Grand Marais Creek.

The watershed district initiates projects based on priority problems identified in the watershed district plan ([://www.redlakewatershed.org/planupdate](http://www.redlakewatershed.org/planupdate)). This project is part of a much larger scope of work in the entire Grand Marais Creek sub-watershed. The entire scope of work will result in reduced flood damages, enhancement of natural resources and improvement of water quality. This stream habitat restoration project will complete a comprehensive watershed-based approach to managing water and habitat in the Grand Marais Creek watershed that has included strategic storage of 5,400 ac-feet and almost 1,100 acres of wetland and grassland restoration. Throughout the sub-watershed, targeted channel stabilization projects, buffer strip installation and erosion reduction projects at the outlet have been completed.

At the request of the LSOHC during the 2010 hearing process, the Red Lake Watershed District and their partners secured CWLF through the BWSR to stabilize the existing outlet channel corridor/legal drainage system. Therefore no LSOHC funding is being requested in this application for any clean water components of the Grand Marais Creek Restoration Project as previously submitted in 2010.

The project is the result of careful planning and engineering by an interdisciplinary project team of resource professionals and local landowners dedicated to reducing flood damages and enhancing natural resources in the Grand Marais Creek sub-watershed within Red River watershed.

Planning

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan

Proposed projects are consistent with *"Habitat recommendation 6: protect and restore critical in-water habitats of lakes and streams"*

In particular, it is consistent with the recommendations on page 82: *"A priority for former prairie zones of Minnesota is to reverse the negative effects of stream channelization on in-stream habitats for fish and other aquatic organisms....."*

Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Preliminary Goals and Objectives 25-Year Targets, Prairie Section, August 27, 2009

This planning document includes a table on page 11 that identifies stream habitat restoration and protection goals and objectives. This proposed project is consistent with this plan and will help achieve year one goals for channel restoration and riparian restoration.

Red Lake Watershed District Plan (2006)

This proposed restoration project is consistent natural resource enhancement and water quality goals and objectives outlined in the Red Lake Watershed District Plan.

Red River Basin Mediation Agreement (1998)

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

1. *Manage streams for natural characteristics.*
2. *Enhance riparian and in-stream habitats.*
4. *Provide connected, integrated habitat including compatible adjacent land uses.*
6. *Provide recreational opportunities.*

Campaign for Conservation – Fifty Year Vision

This habitat restoration project is consistent with the recommended actions in the fifty year vision for the Red River Valley planning region as follows:

C. Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands and Groundwater

2. *Return watercourses to semi-natural hydrology and morphology.*

D. Fish and Wildlife

1. *Develop incentives and regulations for enhanced protection of shoreline and stream restoration in both Minnesota and North Dakota.*
4. *Ensure that suitable habitat for species of concern is primary focus of land and water conservation efforts.*
5. *Expand private landowner stewardship incentive programs. Provide ongoing funding to entice landowners to idle (plant grass or trees) acres in sensitive wetland, riparian, and prairie areas.*
6. *Create habitat corridor connections for prairie chickens and other grassland species across the Red River Valley from the Agassiz Beach Ridges prairies in the east to the Sheyenne National Grasslands in the west. Corridors are needed to provide dispersal routes and prevent genetic isolation.*

State AMA Acquisition Plan

This project is consistent with the following recommendations from the Red River Prairie Ecoregions needs section of the plan:

“The recreational demand on this area of the state will likely outpace the projected population change and additional public access to fishing lakes and streams is a priority. Permanent angling and management easements on streams, while maintaining private ownership, draw anglers to the area, bring additional dollars into the local economy, and provide the inroad to create permanent protection to shoreline habitat, which insures clean water for future generations. Additional lake and warmwater shoreline should still be acquired when extraordinary opportunities arise and County approval is obtained. There may be opportunities for Non-Government Organizations to acquire critical shoreline parcels in this area, to either be managed by them or turned over to the DNR as AMAs or other Outdoor Recreation Units.”

Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare- Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

This project is consistent with the following goals and strategies:

Goal 1: Stabilize and increase SGCN populations

3. *Nonforested wetlands and floodplain forests*

- c. manage habitats adjacent to wetlands and floodplain forests to enhance SGCN values*
- 4. *Stream habitats*
 - a. maintain good water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity in priority stream reaches*
 - b. Maintain and enhance riparian areas along priority stream reaches*

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The proposed project is consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan.

- *Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.*
- *Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.*

Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework

This proposed project is consistent with:

- 1) *The following Minnesota Sustainable Water Policy Principles:*
 - *Protect, maintain, and restore the biological, chemical, and physical health of the state's water resources*
 - *Provide resiliency to our ecosystems, our communities, and our economies*
 - *Encourage sustainable, conservation-minded land use practices*
 - *Preserve our water-rich heritage and ensure our future legacy as national and international water stewards*
 - *Provide for a lasting foundation to achieve and maintain sustainable water management.*

- 2) *Strategy E.1: Restore and protect critical aquatic ecosystems using a watershed approach.*

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

Similar to other stream, wetland and prairie restorations, this restoration project is primarily a habitat restoration project with incidental clean water benefits. Grand Marais Creek is listed as impaired water (303d list). The DNR, BWSR and MPCA have been members of the watershed based project team that helped develop this project. The watershed district has secured a Clean Water Legacy Grant through BWSR, which will address water quality issues in the project area. This project is in the final design phase with construction starting in the fall of 2011 and will be completed during the 2012 construction season. RIM has already been used to acquire most of the land needed for this channel stabilization/water quality project.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

The Red Lake Watershed District is a unit of local government, a political subdivision of the State. The Red Lake Watershed's 2011 General Fund budget is \$178,900 and our 2011 Capital Project Budget is projected to be \$1,080,500 which is approximately 39% of the OHF funding request. This grant will not affect the current budget and will not replace our customary or established patterns of funding as we budget for these types of projects on a yearly basis. In the last four years, the District has executed upwards of 6 million dollars of matching grants from various state agencies to administer and construct various flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement projects throughout the Red Lake Watershed District.

Outcomes	
Short-term/Intermediate Results	Long-term Results
Restore 6 miles of Grand Marais Creek Stream Corridor Habitat including aquatic, riparian, floodplain and upland habitats.	Healthy, terrestrial and aquatic habitat/ecosystems for fish, game, and other wildlife species Prolific fish, game and other wildlife populations
Protect aquatic, riparian, and upland areas for the proliferation of fish, game and other	Perpetual stability of habitat for fish, game, and other wildlife species providing for

Sustainability and Maintenance

The Red Lake Watershed District and the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board, in cooperation with landowners, will be responsible for long term maintenance of this project. The watershed district has led the land acquisition, project development, and engineering of this project with full cooperation of a “Project Team” composed of landowners and representatives of local, state, and federal agencies. The Red Lake Watershed District initiated this project by action of their board under watershed district law (Minnesota Statutes 103D). Long term project maintenance and water management within the project’s watershed is authorized through established Watershed District construction and maintenance funds. Maintenance of vegetation along the newly created stream corridor is provided as part of Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) permanent easement contracts.

Outcomes

As result of investing Outdoor Heritage Funds toward completion of the Restoration of the Grand Marais Creek, the following outcomes will likely result: **(SEE NEXT PAGE)**

wildlife	conservations benefits within an intensely farmed area
Restoration of original hydrology and floodplain characteristics for sustainability	Healthy Watersheds
Increased public awareness of habitat issues	Improved land management practices coordinating agriculture and wildlife interests

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date completed
Conduct Public Meetings		Completed
Prelim. Engineering Report		Completed
Environmental Assessment		Completed
Land Acquisition (RIM)		Fall 2011
Detailed Engineering/Design	Design completed	Winter 2012
Final Hearing	Conducted	March 2012
Environmental Permits	Permits acquired	March 2012
Plans and Specifications	Plans and specs finalized	June 2012
Construction Contracting	Const. contract signed	July 2012
Project Construction	Initialize construction	August 2012
	Channel restoration	Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
	Diversion structure	Spring 2013
	Channel stabilization	Fall 2012
	Final construction activities	Summer 2013

Table B-2. Other Outcome Table

(This table should be used instead of attachment B for activities that are not counted in acres, miles etc.

If you use attachment B you can delete this table from the accomplishment plan.) (SEE NEXT PAGE)

Goal 1	Activity – P/R/E	Measure	Impact	Ecological Type
Restore channel and hydrology to Protected Waters Watercourse and Restore Riparian Corridor	P/R/E	Linear foot of river channel reestablished, flow measurements along restored channel, acres of riparian area reestablished from agriculture use	Aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat, Public Access to Public Waters Watercourse	Aquatic/Riparian Habitat, Riverine Wetland, Wetlands, Upland Prairie, and Forest
Goal 2				
Restore Fish Passage, Habitat, and populations	P/R/E	Linear Foot of river channel reestablished, Increased game fish population (Channel	Improved aquatic/biotic community and angling on the Red	River, Aquatic

		Catfish, Northern Pike) in Red River and Grand Marais Creek	River and Grand Marais	
Goal 3				
Increased awareness of habitat issues	E	Project Progress Reports to County Board, Township Board and Watershed District Board, Local agriculture communities short and long term reception to the restoration project	Example of successful coexisting restored riparian corridor within intensively farmed area	Aquatic/Riparian Habitat, Riverine Wetland, Wetlands, Upland Prairie, and Forest

Attachments (on spreadsheet workbook – 3 separate tabs):

- A. Budget
- B. Proposed Outcome Tables
- C. Parcel List

No Map is needed for the accomplishment plan

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:	Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project
Legislative Citation:	
Date:	10/21/2011

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 2,320,000 *From page 1 on the funding form.*

Personnel

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	Anticipated Cash		Cash Leverage Source	Total
			LSOHC Request	Leverage		
NA	0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -	\$ -
Total	0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

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	Anticipated Cash		Cash Leverage Source	Total
	LSOHC Request	Leverage		
Personnel - <i>auto entered from above</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 1,617,000	Local, FDR, RRWMB	\$ 3,937,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT <i>(breakout in table 7)</i>				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT <i>(breakout in table 7)</i>				\$ -
Easement Acquisition		\$ 663,000	RIM, Local, FDR	\$ 663,000
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)				\$ -
Professional Services	\$ -	\$ 800,000	Local, FDR, RRWMB	\$ 800,000
Direct Support Services				\$ -
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment <i>(auto entered from below)</i>				\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 2,320,000	\$ 3,080,000	\$ -	\$ 5,400,000

Capital Equipment *(single items over \$10,000 - auto entered into table above)*

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
NA	-	-
Total	-	-

Attachment B. Output Tables

Name of Proposal:	Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project
Legislative Citation:	
Date:	10/21/2011

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	131	87	110	72	400
Protect Fee					0
Protect Easement					0
Protect Other					0
Enhance					0
Total	131	87	110	72	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)
Total Acres (sum of Total row)

400
400
These two cells should be the same figure.

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$ 194,000	\$ 67,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 1,979,000	\$ 2,320,000
Protect Fee					\$ -
Protect Easement					\$ -
Protect Other					\$ -
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ 194,000	\$ 67,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 1,979,000	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)
Total Dollars (sum of Total row)
Check to make sure this amount is the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

\$ 2,320,000
\$ 2,320,000
These two cells should be the same figure.

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore				400		400
Protect Fee						0
Protect Easement						0
Protect Other						0
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	0	400	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)
Total Acres (sum of Total row)
Total Acres from Table 1.

400
400
400
These three cells should be the same figure.

Attachment B. Output Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore				\$ 2,320,000		\$ 2,320,000
Protect Fee						\$ -
Protect Easement						\$ -
Protect Other						\$ -
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,320,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 2,320,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 2,320,000
 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 w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement <i>NO State PILT Liability</i>					0
	0	0	0	0	

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

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -	\$ -
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					\$ -	\$ -
Permanent Easement <i>NO State PILT Liability</i>					\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		

FYI: should match total in budget table that is auto entered below

Attachment C. Parcel List

Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project

10/21/2011

Name of Proposal:
Legislative Citation:
Date:

Parcel Name	County	Township (25-258)	Range (01-51)	Direction	Section (01 thru 36)	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 PF=Protect Fee PE=Protect Easement PO=Protect Other R=Restore E=Enhance	*If Easement, what is the easement cost as a % of the fee acquisition?	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)
Gulbranson	Polk	153	50 NW1/4		15	15	5	\$4,000	Prairie	R	*NA	No	No
Gulbranson	Polk	153	50 SW1/4		15	15	5	\$4,000	Prairie	R		No	No
Neilson	Polk	153	50 NE1/4		15	15	5	\$4,000	Prairie	R		No	No
Gulbranson	Polk	153	50 NE1/4		22	22	30	\$24,000	Wetland	R		No	No
Gulbranson	Polk	153	50 NE1/4		22	22	40	\$31,000	Prairie	R		No	No
Mack	Polk	153	50 SE1/4		22	22	110	\$80,000	Forested	R		No	No
Mack	Polk	153	50 SE1/4		22	22	15	\$45,000	Wetland	R/E		No	No
Loeck	Polk	153	50 SW1/4		23	23	32	\$24,000	Prairie	R		No	No
Loeck	Polk	153	50 SW1/4		23	23	60	\$90,000	Wetland	R		No	No
Neilson	Polk	153	50 SW1/4		23	23	20	\$30,000	Wetland	R		No	No
Millette	Polk	153	50 SE1/4		23	23	14	\$10,500	Wetland	R/E		No	No
Pope	Polk	153	50 SE1/4		23	23	22	\$17,500	Wetland	R/E		No	No
Thompson	Polk	153	50 SE1/4		23	23	31	\$24,000	Wetland	R/E		No	No
Anderson	Polk	153	50 NE1/4		26	26	8	\$6,000	Wetland	R/E		No	No
Grand Marais Channel	Polk	153	50 NE1/4				6 miles	\$1,926,000	Habitat for Fish, Game, Wildlife	R		Yes	Yes

*Note: LSOHC Funds will not be used for Permanent Easement Acquisition, so considered Not Applicable.