

Main Request for Funding Form

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2013**

Program or Project Title: Mid-Minnesota River Corridor Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Funds Requested: \$ 1,317,000

Manager's Name: *Catherine Fouchi*

Organization: MN DNR

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Organization Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

County Location:

Ecological Planning Regions:

Northern Forest Forest/Prairie Transition Southeast Forest

Prairie Metro/Urban

Activity Type:

Protect - Fee Protect - Easement Protect - Other

Restore Enhance

Priority Resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands Forests Prairie Habitat

Project Abstract

Habitat in the Minnesota River Corridor between Granite Falls and New Ulm will be restored and enhanced for terrestrial and aquatic species and rare plant/animal communities.

Project Narrative

This four year project will accelerate habitat restoration and enhancement in the MN River corridor between Granite Falls and New Ulm on AMAs, WMAs, SNA's, and State Parks. A highly engaged group of organizations (including Green Corridor, local governments and citizens) is resulting in increasing amounts of state land holdings in the area and increasing interest for hunting, angling and wildlife watching opportunities. These lands contain a number of rare species and plant communities. Two sites are rated as outstanding in biological significance by MCBS, several others are rated high or moderate. Detailed information about these rare native species and plant communities can be found in DNR Biological Report No. 89. Three designated trout streams in the project area will receive added protection/access and in-stream habitat enhancement.

Design and scope of work

In order to leverage the resources of local groups aimed at increasing quality habitat, DNR will employ a variety of strategies. Strategies include accelerating tree and brush removal from prairie remnants, increasing prescribed burning, native seed collection to increase biodiversity in restoration/enhancements, in-stream habitat work on three designated trout streams, easements for stream protection and access, increasing personnel resources for coordination with local groups and implementation of enhancement projects. Focusing additional resources in this area will: help insure the retention of remnant native plant communities and rare animals/plants for future generations to access, will increase habitat quality for native species, will open up additional opportunities for recreation (hunting, fishing and wildlife watching) in higher quality habitat and will help keep local interested parties invested and contributing.

Funding includes: one full time person to coordinate work project planning and implementation and to contract funds for vendors doing the restoration or enhancement work; one seasonal Technician for day to day leadership of CCM crews and/or vendors and a one seasonal laborer to collect, dry and disperse early prairie species to increase diversity of restoration/ enhancement efforts on WMAs, AMAs, State Parks and SNAs. The SNA positions listed are on soft monies that come from LCCMR or other similar sources and are not replacing existing funds. This would complement the Green Corridor project proposal to acquire lands in this area – allowing for enhancement after restoration in some cases and initial restoration for some older units in other cases.

This project is part of a larger effort on the part of the southern region of DNR to focus on the long term habitat and recreation potential of the Minnesota River Corridor. The DNR southern region Conservation Focus Area Map identifies the Minnesota River Corridor as a high priority for all divisions within DNR in this region. The highest number and density of significant plants/animals species and communities in the region is located along the Minnesota River Corridor. Parcels were chosen based on their proximity to the river corridor in the specified area and quality of resources. Focusing in

this smaller area will provide efficiencies of operation and improve the habitat quality in sites relatively close to each other (complexes of protected habitat with connecting corridors).

Native habitats in good condition will require less management input in the future and will provide better habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species.

Planning

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – Land & Aquatic Preservation Plan.

Page 63 and 66, identifies prairie and savannahs as critical lands areas in need of management and protection.

Pages 67-74 Protect critical shorelands of streams & lakes...

- Target shallow wildlife lakes, natural environment lakes, shallow bays of deep lakes, cold-water/designated trout streams...

Pages 74-77 Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation.

- Also provide benefits to wildlife, SGCN, etc.

Pages 81-84 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams.

- Expand efforts to restore critical habitats for aquatic communities in near-shore areas of lakes, in-stream areas of rivers and streams, and deep-water lakes with exceptional water quality
- Reverse negative effects of stream channelization on in-stream habitats

Pages 84-87 Keep water on the landscape

- Habitat benefits include improved water quality, maintaining habitat for wildlife and game species, and enhancing biological diversity
- Increase riparian buffers along shorelines of rivers, lakes, and sinkholes
- Maintain and restore headwater wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains
- Enhance and expand the use of perennial vegetation.

Minnesota's Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan 2008

Pages 4.3 – 176

Goal 1: Promote a Healthy Hydrological Regime for Minnesota's Streams and Rivers.

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare – an action plan for Minnesota Wildlife.

Page 38. Habitat restoration and protection.

Page 80. Goal I: Stabilize and increase Species in Greatest Conservation Need; 8. Stream habitats, actions include:

- Maintain good water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity in priority stream reaches.
- Maintain and enhance riparian areas along priority stream reaches.

Page 214- 219 Goal 1: Stabilize and increase Species in Greatest Conservation in the Minnesota River Prairie, priority actions 1,2,3,5.

Minnesota's 2008-2012 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan

Page 12. Acquire, protect and restore Minnesota's natural resource base on which outdoor recreation depends.

Page 17. Develop and maintain a sustainable and resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure.

DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management Covering Fiscal Years 2004-2010

Page 8. Core Function 2. Conserve, Improve, and Rehabilitate Fish Populations and Aquatic Habitat. Shoreline habitat restoration program – rehabilitate riparian and aquatic vegetation to improve fish habitat, wildlife habitat and water quality;

Page 8. Core Function 4. Provide Opportunities for Partnerships, Public Information, and Aquatic Education. Increased public involvement with fisheries projects.

- **MDNR Directions for Natural Resources, 2000** – Pages 25-30 Remaining natural ecosystems in farmland region will be maintained, Ecosystems of high priority rivers in region will be restored.

- **A Vision for Wildlife and its Use – Goals and Outcomes 2003 – 2013 DNR**

Page 26. Acquire, develop, and maintain WMAs for wildlife habitat, public hunting, and wildlife observation

- **Minnesota Calling** Habitat loss page 23-29

The Southern DNR Region **Conservation Focus Area Map** is based in part on *the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model*.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

At the time of proposal, this project is not receiving any other funds.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

"FY10 DNR Expenditures from all funding sources, except bonding"

DNR total - \$456 million

Division of Ecological and Water Resources total - \$74.6 million

Division of Fish and Wildlife total - \$90.3 million

One site on Cedar Mountain SNA which is planned for burning in FY13 received LSOH funds for brush clearing previously.

Another project site on Cedar Mountain SNA is included in the Forestry LSOH application for FY13.

The funds requested for this project allow additional work to be completed that would simply not be done in the near future due to lack of personnel and funds for this part of the state.

Sustainability and Maintenance

Due to the high amount of initial enhancement needs on some of these sites and uncertainties of predicting site response, future weather conditions and vendor availability, additional funds may be requested from LSOHC at the end of this project to bring sites to the condition where less frequent management actions are needed by local DNR managers who are ultimately responsible for long-term management.

Outcomes

Habitat conditions on public lands will be improved on 626 acres of upland prairie, savanna, river valley woodlands and three miles of designated trout streams. Ninety acres (two sites in project) are rated as outstanding biodiversity sites.

Increased biodiversity seedings will occur for 282 acres of prairie restorations or after Rx burn enhancements using seed collected from local remnants.

Ten acres of brome (agricultural land) will be converted to native grasses.

One mile of additional buffers and public access will be secured along trout streams in the project area with permanent easements.

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: AMA, WMA, SNA and State Parks (see parcel id table for specifics)

Past Outdoor Heritage Fund Appropriations Received for this program

ML 2009	ML 2010	ML 2011
\$ N/A	\$N/A	\$N/A

Note: This is a place based project, not program oriented. Multiple DNR disciplines are participating/benefitting, but we have not applied for LSOH funds in this way in the past.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
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<i>Contracts/Purchases/Personnel</i>	Vendors/personnel Hired	September - March 2013,14,15,16
<i>Restoration/Enhancement</i>	Brush/trees removed, seed harvested, prairie planted / burned, trees/shrubs planted, in- stream habitat restoration	April – November of each year
<i>Protection - Easement</i>	Trout streams buffered and access provided.	Nov 2013 – June 2016
<i>Reporting and Documentation</i>	Required reports	6 month intervals

Attachments:

- A. Budget**
- B. Proposed Output Tables 1-5**
- C. Parcel List**

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:	Mid-Minnesota River Corridor Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
Date:	29-Jun-11

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 1,317,000 *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>State Program Specialist</i>	1	4	\$ 280,000			\$ 280,000
<i>Technician</i>	0.5	4	\$ 124,000			\$ 124,000
<i>Laborer</i>	0.5	4	\$ 88,000			\$ 88,000
<i>SNA Specialist</i>	0.057	4	\$ 12,480			\$ 12,480
<i>Prairie Stewardship Spec</i>	0.007	4	\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
<i>SNA Technician</i>	0.023	4	\$ 4,000			\$ 4,000
<i>SNA Laborer</i>	0.015	4	\$ 3,000			\$ 3,000
Total	2.1		\$ 513,480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 513,480

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	\$ 513,480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 513,480
Contracts	\$ 570,105			\$ 570,105
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)				\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ 80,000			\$ 80,000
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)	\$ 35,000			\$ 35,000
Professional Services	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000
Direct Support Services	\$ 34,215			\$ 34,215
DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)				\$ -
Other				\$ 64,200
Capital Equipment <i>(auto entered from below)</i>	\$ 19,200	\$ -		\$ 19,200
Other Equipment/Tools	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000
Supplies/Materials	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000
	\$ 1,317,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,317,000

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

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
<i>Truck</i>	19,200	
<i>Item 2 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 3 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 4 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 5 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 6 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 7 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 8 enter here</i>		
Total	19,200	-

Attachment B. Output Tables

Name of Proposal:	Mid-Minnesota River Corridor Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
Date:	29-Jun-11

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		12		12	24
Protect Fee					0
Protect Easement				12	12
Protect Other					0
Enhance		552		50	602
Total	0	564	0	74	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)	638	<i>These two cells should be the same figure.</i>
Total Acres (sum of Total row)	638	

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore		\$ 163,612		\$ 3,000	\$ 166,612
Protect Fee					\$ -
Protect Easement				\$ 176,012	\$ 176,012
Protect Other					\$ -
Enhance		\$ 920,298		\$ 54,078	\$ 974,376
Total	\$ -	\$ 1,083,910	\$ -	\$ 233,090	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)	\$ 1,317,000	<i>These two cells should be the same figure.</i>
Total Dollars (sum of Total row)	\$ 1,317,000	

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				24		24
Protect Fee						0
Protect Easement				12		12
Protect Other						0
Enhance				602		602
Total	0	0	0	638	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)	638	<i>These three cells should be the same figure.</i>
Total Acres (sum of Total row)	638	
Total Acres from Table 1.	638	

Attachment B. Output Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore				\$ 166,612		\$ 166,612
Protect Fee						\$ -
Protect Easement				\$ 176,012		\$ 176,012
Protect Other						\$ -
Enhance				\$ 974,376		\$ 974,376
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,317,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 1,317,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 1,317,000
 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>PILT Liability</i> <i>NO State</i>				12	12
	0	0	0	12	

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>PILT Liability</i> <i>NO State</i>				\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000		

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

Attachment C. Parcel List

Minnesota River Corridor Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
 29-Jun-11

County	Township (25-258)	Range (01-51)	Direction most parcels are 2 with the exception of some areas of Cook County which is 1	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)
Parcel Name												
Delhi WMA	Redwood	113	36	25		\$10	5000	Converting brome to prairie using locally collected prairie seed.	R		Y	Y
Tiger Lake WMA	Redwood	113	35	34		\$40	20000	Removing trees and invasive brush from remnant prairie on the WMA	E		Y	Y
Cold Springs WMA	Renville	113	36	12		\$40	12000	Prescribed burning on degraded remnant and inter-seeding with locally collected prairie seed	R		Y	Y
Cedar Rock WMA	Redwood	113	36	11		\$50	15000	Prescribed burning on degraded remnant and inter-seeding with locally collected prairie seed	R		Y	Y
Granite Prairie WMA	Renville	113	35	18		\$40	10000	Prescribed burning on degraded remnant and inter-seeding with locally collected prairie seed	R		Y	Y
Beaver Falls WMA	Renville	113	35	24		\$10	3000	Prescribed burning on degraded remnant and inter-seeding with locally collected prairie seed	R		Y	Y
Whispering Ridge AMA	Redwood	114	36	29,30,31,32		\$10	10000	Buckthorn control	R and E		Y	Y
						2	3000	Level bike course and reseed.				
						\$15	20000	Thin trees at rock outcrop vertical walls.				
						\$3	10000	Plant oak tree plot.				
Riverside AMA	Redwood	113	35	20,21,28,29		\$15	5000	Remove brush from NAWCA land.	R and E		Y	Y
						\$3	3000	Plant oak tree plot.				
						\$7	10000	Establish shrub planting.				
						\$10	10000	Buckthorn control				

Attachment C. Parcel List

Cedar Mountain	Redwood	112	34		14, 15, 23		75	70000	Return Rx fire to approximately 50 ac of former pasture. Remove invasive trees and brush from 25 ac of overgrown prairie at Cedar Mountain SNA	E
Morton Outcrops SNA	Renville	113	34		31		15	60000	Prescribed fire on 15 ac of dry prairie/rock outcrop. Ongoing (multiple years) brush and tree control on same area.	E
Fort Ridgley SP	Nicollet	111	32		6		26 16	Cost of laborer's time	Oak Savanna overseeding , Rx burns Replant failed planting along golf course fairways	E
Upper Souix SP	Yellow Medicine	116	40					Cost of laborer's time	Over-seeding after burns	E
Ramsey Creek	Redwood						1 mi	125000	Instream Habitat enhancement	E
							8 ac	66666	Access Easement	P
Spring Creek	Redwood						1mi	100000	Instream Habitat enhancement	E
							2 ac	16667	Access Easement	P
Fort Ridgley Creek	Nicollet, Renville						1 mi	100000	Instream Habitat enhancement	E
							2 ac	16667	Access Easement	P

Y	Y
Y	N
Y	N
Y	N
	Y
	Y

Information provided will be used to map project locations. Incomplete or inaccurate information will result in that parcel or program not being mapped.