

Main Request for Funding Form

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

Program or Project Title: Conserving Grasslands and Working Lands for Wildlife

Funds Requested: \$10,000,000

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County Location: Pope, Stevens, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Jackson, Cottonwood, Big Stone, Chippewa, Renville, and corners of Kandiyohi, Swift, Yellow Medicine, Redwood, Brown and Nobles counties.

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

Seven WLI teams will target high priority landscapes identified in the Prairie Plan, existing WLI Target Areas, and expiring CRP lands for protection. A new program RIM-GRE will be developed.

Project Narrative

Design and scope of work

Between 2012 and 2017, Minnesota will have over 1 million acres of expiring CRP contracts. This could result in the loss of a million acres of grassland habitat. At the same time half of the remnant prairie in Minnesota lacks permanent protection. These CRP investments and prairie remnants will likely be lost if not immediately acted on. The DNR and BWSR seek to address part of the problem by building on successful models with new initiatives.

This project will identify seven geographic focus areas that have the highest potential of habitat improvement. Within focus areas more refined “target areas” will be identified based on the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, expiring CRP contracts, and the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) focus areas. The seven WLI Teams include: 1) Stevens 2) Pope 3) Lincoln/Lyon 4) Murray/Pipestone 5) Jackson/Cottonwood 6) Big Stone 7) Chippewa/Renville. Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (FBA) staff will support the effort on a local level, contact prospective landowners with multiple conservation options, and bring project proposals to the WLI teams for vetting. Emphasis will be on protecting prairie grassland habitat and providing ecological management services by developing a working relationship with local agriculture and using conservation compatible practices including rotational grazing, selective haying, and biofuel harvest. Depending on landowner interest, the quality of the habitat, and proximity/practical factors, the options within the target areas through this grant will be: acquisition by the DNR for a WMA or through BWSR using a new permanent RIM Grassland Reserve Easement (RIM-GRE) program. RIM-GRE will enroll land in a permanent grassland easement that may allow managed haying and grazing according to a state approved management plan.

Strategies used in this proposal will be bundled with other existing conservation/management/access tools to create “stacked incentives” that makes conservation appealing to landowners even in these times of high land and commodity prices. For example, landowners will be encouraged to participate in the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Walk-In Access Program (using Federal funds) and Prairie Bank Easements (where appropriate). With RIM-GRE we can target high priority expiring CRP land that might not qualify for RIM-WRP or expand grasslands around RIM-WRP beyond the 4:1 upland: wetland cap. The current state Working Lands Initiative will provide cost sharing for landowners interested in conservation practices through the Federal Farm Bill.

Of the \$10 million dollars, \$2.5 million is for WMA acquisition and will purchase 825 acres in the target areas, \$6 million is for RIM-GRE which will be targeted at expiring CRP and provide permanent easements on 1,500 acres. The Working Lands teams will review prospective properties to prioritize acquisition and conservation easements.

This is a three-year project but the habitat benefits will be permanent. Approximately 2/3 of the funding will target expiring CRP acres thus keeping land in private hands and preserving high quality wildlife habitat. This is consistent with the overall strategy applied by WLI to create complexes through mix of public and private grasslands and wetlands in geographically targeted areas to create large scale wildlife habitat that is sustainable over time.

Saving CRP and Working Lands for Wildlife

Many landowners have invested personal time and money into their CRP acres and have reenrolled them one or more time. These lands are often sanctuaries for working farmers and their families, a heritage to pass on through the generations. While some farmers may choose to plow up their expiring CRP lands, we believe that many will be interested in a program that will protect their wildlife habitat improvement efforts in perpetuity while allowing, in some cases, conservation compatible agricultural uses.

Planning

The Conservation and Preservation Plan (pg 63, 66, 74, 84, 104) and Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare (pg 31, 196-200, 203-219) place a high priority on the preservation of prairie and grassland areas. This project targets the southwest corner of the Prairie Conservation Plan, but expands it slightly by adding Working Lands focus areas in this zone.

This project will address the following LSOHC Prairie Section Priorities.

1. Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes.
2. Protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna.
3. Convert agricultural land to wetland/upland to protect, enhance, or restore existing habitat complexes, such as existing WMA's.
6. Protect expiring CRP lands.
7. Protect, enhance and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

This project will integrate with other LSOHC requests such as RIM-WRP and Max Habitat Wildlife Buffers which is funded 50% with Clean Water Funds. This funding includes partial funding for FBA staff.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2010, not including Bonding or LSOHC funds

DNR total - \$456 million

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

Division of Fish and Wildlife total - \$90.3 million

BWSR aspects of this proposal are not part of the standard BWSR Budget. All aspects of the program are funded by project funds the agency requests and receive, to accomplish program objectives.

Sustainability and Maintenance

Saving CRP and Working Lands for Wildlife

Land enrolled in programs will be either under permanent easement or acquired in fee title for public use. Long term maintenance of public lands will be incorporated into normal DNR maintenance routines. Land eased will be managed through the management plan.

Outcomes

Investing in landscape level conservation provides synergistic wildlife benefits. This proposal targets acquisition and grassland easements in target areas identified in the Prairie Conservation Plan and by existing WLI teams to put the most efficient and effective conservation on the ground in high priority areas thus increasing the probability of success and long-term viability. Ultimately 1,500 acres of expiring CRP will be protected in a new Working Lands program, RIM-GRE, and 825 acres of WMA lands will be acquired within target areas. These new WMA acres are mostly additions to existing WMAs. Together these two programs will provide more wildlife and greater hunting opportunities for the public. Additionally, some prairie remnants may be protected. This will lead to greater public satisfaction and support for grassland conservation.

Activity Type Detail

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: Public access RIM-GRE easements will depend on voluntary landowner participation in the Walk-In Access program.

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Saving CRP and Working Lands for Wildlife

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

Initial site development will occur on WMAs and may involve restoration/enhancement. Additional restoration will occur on RIM-GRE.

If so, please indicate which ones:

Past Outdoor Heritage Fund Appropriations Received for this program

ML 2009	ML 2010	ML 2011
\$0	\$0	\$0

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
Hire 1FTE Project Coordinator	Hired within 6 month	Dec. 2013
Increase FBA staff time in target areas	PD & funding modified in 6 months	Dec. 2013
CRP-RIM program fully implemented	1,500 acres	June 2016
Target WMA areas acquired	825 acres (10 tracts)	June 2016

Attachments:

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

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:

Conserving Grasslands and Working Lands for Wildlife

Date:

6/30/2011

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 10,000,000 *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>Project Coordinator</i>	1	3	\$ 225,000			\$ 225,000
<i>7 FBA Technicians @ 50%</i>	3.5	3	\$ 535,500			\$ 535,500
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	4.5		\$ 760,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 760,500

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	\$ 760,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 760,500
Contracts	\$ 165,000			\$ 165,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ 2,500,000			\$ 2,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ -			\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ 6,000,000			\$ 6,000,000
Easement Stewardship	\$ 193,500			\$ 193,500
Travel (in-state)	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000
Professional Services	\$ 200,000			\$ 200,000
Direct Support Services	\$ 11,000			\$ 11,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)	\$ 125,000			\$ 125,000
Other				\$ 30,000
Capital Equipment (<i>auto entered from below</i>)	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000
Supplies/Materials	\$ -			\$ -
	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000

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

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
Total	-	-

Attachment B. Output Tables

Name of Proposal:	Conserving Grasslands and Working Lands for Wildlife
Date:	6/30/2011

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					0
Protect Fee		825			825
Protect Easement		1500			1500
Protect Other					0
Enhance					0
Total	0	2325	0	0	0

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

2325
2325 *These two cells should be the same figure.*

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect Fee		\$ 4,500,000			\$ 4,500,000
Protect Easement		\$ 5,500,000			\$ 5,500,000
Protect Other					\$ -
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	-

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)
Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 10,000,000
\$ 10,000,000 *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						0
Protect Fee				825		825
Protect Easement				1500		1500
Protect Other						0
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	0	2325	0	0

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

2325
2325
2325 *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						\$ -
Protect Fee				\$ 2,500,000		\$ 2,500,000
Protect Easement				\$ 6,000,000		\$ 6,000,000
Protect Other						\$ -
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,500,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 8,500,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 8,500,000
 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		825			825
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement PILT Liability <i>NO State</i>		1500			1500
	0	2325	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		\$ 2,500,000			\$ 2,500,000	<i>FYI: should match total in budget table that is auto entered below</i>	
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					\$ -		\$ -
Permanent Easement PILT Liability <i>NO State</i>		\$ 6,000,000			\$ 6,000,000		
	\$ -	\$ 8,500,000	\$ -	\$ -			

Attachment C. Parcel List

Name of Proposal: Conserving Grasslands and Working Lands for Wildlife
Date: 6/30/2011

Parcel Name	County	Township (25-258)	Range (01-51)	Direction	Section (01 thru 36)	TRDS	# of acres	Budgetary Estimate	Description	Activity PF=Protect Fee	If Easement, what is the	Any existing protection?	Open to hunting
Hornstein Tr1	Big Stone	124	49	2	36	12449236	95	\$285,000	Preserving native hill prairie, lakeshore & public access is important for this area.	PF		N	Y
Hawick State Tr1	Kandiyohi	122	33	2	23	12233223	90	\$162,000	52 acres of CRP, 31 marsh, 7 acres of brush. Tract 1 of proposed new WMA (412 acres). Located one mile southeast of our Regal Flats WMA with the Regal Meadows TNC Preserve lying in between the two sites. This will be a significant addition to the complex of habitat in this area.	PF		N	Y
Lac qui Parle	Big Stone	120	44	2	5	1204425	83	125,000	Adjacent to existing WMA. Low quality wet native prairie.	PF		N	Y
Woodstock Tr3	Pipestone	107	44	2	2	1074422	245	\$735,000	Rolling hills with some native prairie pasture (approximately 19 acres) and CRP grassland that can be enhanced through grazing and/or fire management. Several Type I and II wetlands are within the proposed acquisition. This tract would connect two separated tracts of the existing WMA into one single unit that would facilitate management activities and provide a permanent buffer to the 43 acre marsh on the existing WMA as well as add valuable nesting cover to the area along with additional recreational activity.	PF		N	Y

Attachment C. Parcel List

Lyndwood WMA Tr5B	Lyon	111	42	2	28	11142228	80	\$450,000	This parcel includes crop land that is needed for winter food plots for a large deer herd and for turkeys. It also includes a building site with a house, double garage, an older barn and various other out-buildings for machine storage and a machine shop repair area. This site and these buildings would provide a perfect office location and facilities for the Marshall Area office that currently houses Wildlife and Waters. It is connected to Rural Water and has a geothermal heat pump. It would also provide storage space for Enforcement equipment. The south end of the property also contains a spring that flows 52 gpm at a temperature of 55 degrees. This property fronts on a tar road (Lyon County Road 4) and is less than one mile from Lynd, MN.	PF	N	Y
Beaver Falls WMA	Renville	113	35	2	26	11335226	80	\$400,000	Lies immediately south and west of the existing Beaver Falls WMA and contains several restorable wetlands that would add to the value of the existing grassland wetland complex formed by the WMA and surrounding RIM . Good use by blue-winged teal and mallards already and this would be improved by restoring the grassland wetland on this tract.	PF	N	Y
Arnolds Lake Tr3	Cottonwood	106	36	2	10	10636210	22	\$75,000	This tract is along the shoreline of Arnolds Lake. It would be part of the Arnolds Lake WMA and the Arnolds Lake WMA, Watonwan River WPA, Delft WMA, Harder Lake WPA, and Little Swan WMA complex.	PF	N	Y
Prairie Dell Tr5	Lincoln	113	45	2	16	11345216	13	\$35,000	This property is an inholding that divides the east and west subunits of the WMA. Water seeping under a dike on the DNR west subunit is currently causing problems to the adjacent landowner and has formed small wetlands on his land. Purchase will eliminate the farming problems, connect the two subunits, preserve some small wetland areas and will not require expensive dike repair on the WMA. Additional nesting cover will also be provided.	PF	N	Y
Lac qui Parle Tr113	Chippewa	118	41	2	16	11841216	38	\$73,000	LQP approved project map does not have tract numbers	PF	N	Y

Attachment C. Parcel List

Lac qui Parle	Chippewa	118	42	2	12	11842212	80	160,000	Adjacent to existing WMA. RIM easement. Very good pheasant & deer habitat. Tract would provide a high level of recreation benefits . Extremely good fit with existing WMA.
Total							825	\$2,500,000	

PF

N

Y

Name of Proposal:

DNR

Date:

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 10,000,000 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>Project Coordinator</i>	1	3	\$ 225,000			\$ 225,000
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	1		\$ 225,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000

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	\$ 225,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000
Contracts	\$ 165,000		IDP	\$ 165,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ 2,500,000		WMA	\$ 2,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ -			\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ -			\$ -
Easement Stewardship	\$ -			\$ -
Travel (in-state)	\$ 15,000		proj coord	\$ 15,000
Professional Services	\$ -			\$ -
Direct Support Services	\$ 12,000			\$ 12,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)	\$ 125,000		transaction	\$ 125,000
Other				\$ 30,000
Capital Equipment (auto entered from below)	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools	\$ 30,000		offie & supplies	\$ 30,000
Supplies/Materials	\$ -			\$ -
	\$ 3,072,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,072,000

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

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
Total	-	-

Name of Proposal:

BWSR

Date:

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 10,000,000 From page 1 on the funding form.

Personnel

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
						\$ -
7 FBA Technicians @ 50%	3.5	3	\$ 535,500			\$ 535,500
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	3.5		\$ 535,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 535,500

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	\$ 535,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 535,500
Contracts	\$ -			\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ -			\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ -			\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ 6,000,000		RIM-GRE	\$ 6,000,000
Easement Stewardship	\$ 193,500		GRE hab imp	\$ 193,500
Travel (in-state)	\$ -			\$ -
Professional Services	\$ 200,000		eas processing	\$ 200,000
Direct Support Services	\$ -			\$ -
DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)	\$ -			\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment (auto entered from below)	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools	\$ -			\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ -			\$ -
	\$ 6,929,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,929,000

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

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
Total	-	-