

Main Request for Funding Form
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2013

Program or Project Title: Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership

Funds Requested: \$ 3,097,900

Manager's Name: *Helen McLennan*

Organization: Morrison SWCD, Camp Ripley, MN Board of Water/Soil Resources

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City: Little Falls **State:** MN **Zip:** 56345

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Organization Web Site: www.morrisonswcd.org

County Location: *Central Mn (Morrison, CrowWing, and Cass)*

Ecological Planning Regions: [Link to Map](#)

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

Protect high value properties along the Mississippi River and Crow Wing River Corridors to provide wildlife habitat and reduce further development.

Project Narrative

Design and scope of work

The Mississippi River and its' associated habitats are a national treasure, besides being the primary drinking water supply for many major communities throughout the Midwestern states. The purpose of this proposal is to protect these outstanding natural habitats in the stretches adjacent to Camp Ripley before they become fragmented and degraded by development. The MN National Guard's (MNG) Camp Ripley military training facility is located immediately adjacent to the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers. Camp Ripley has done an excellent job of protecting their 19 miles of frontage on the west bank of the Mississippi and eight miles of frontage on the south bank of the Crow Wing River. However, both rivers and the outstanding fish and wildlife habitats within their corridors are vulnerable to degradation from development.

The east bank of the Mississippi is directly adjacent to Hwy. 371, and only a two hour drive from the northern suburbs of the twin cities. The 371 corridor is projected to have some of the highest growth rates outside the metropolitan area. Many of the lakes in Cass and Crow Wing Counties have already been developed, and increasingly people and developers are looking to tracts along these major rivers for subdivision.

Fortunately, Camp Ripley is a national leader in the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. The federal program provides military training facilities funds to protect adjacent lands from encroaching development and in the process, protects the training facility. Since 2005, Camp Ripley, in conjunction with Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District, have purchased no-build easements on over 10,500 acres, and additionally acquired 1,315 more acres through fee acquisition or easement by the Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy.

Through 2009, nearly all funding for the Camp Ripley ACUB project had been federal. But in 2010, the L-SOHC recommended the project for \$843,000 in state funding to expand and protect the Little Nokasippi Wildlife Management Area. BWSR has encumbered all of the conservation easement funds, and DNR completed two fee title acquisitions with two more in process.

This proposal requests funds to continue the work begun on the WMA with Phase 1. The WMA is less than a mile from the Mississippi River and is built around the Nokasippi River. The WMA and the Mississippi River easements are very closely related parts of a larger project. Both benefit from the leverage of federal DOD (Dept. of Defense) funds. If funded for Phase II we anticipate buying easements on 700 acres in the greater WMA area, including one very high quality parcel just outside the three mile ACUB buffer. This parcel contains over 7,500 feet of

frontage on the Nokasippi River (both banks), and the entire shoreline of two protected lakes. When Phase 2 of the WMA project is complete, the combined state and county fee acreage will be approximately 2,300 acres. When the easement buffer acres are added, the greater protected habitat complex will be approximately 4,400 acres. The Little Nokasippi WMA complex will be the largest public hunting opportunity adjacent to the Mississippi between Brainerd and Anoka.

The MN National Guard has asked their conservation partners to now focus on the vulnerable parcels directly adjacent to the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers. These lands are a very high priority for protection through the ACUB program. The east shore of the Mississippi experiences high decibel levels because of the proximity to the firing ranges, and are also near the flight path to Ripley's airfield. The same lands are very important to the integrity of the high quality habitats for both fish and wildlife (deer, turkey, grouse, etc) that are either in or closely associated with the river. As these lands are parceled up and developed, the upland habitat corridor becomes more fragmented, and wildlife travel along the river more difficult to sustain.

The Camp Ripley area has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by a thorough habitat evaluation by the Audubon Society. The Camp Ripley area has the state's highest population of red shouldered hawks. The Mississippi River also constitutes one of only four major waterfowl migration flyways on the continent. In addition, the Little Falls to Brainerd stretch of the river is known to have outstanding fishing for smallmouth bass and muskie. The river corridor and the adjacent Little Nokasippi WMA provide a large block of public land and good hunting for white tailed deer and turkey. Also, Camp Ripley is home to one of the most southern wolf populations in Minnesota.

This proposal requests funds to protect this high quality riparian habitat while it still exists, and while the residents are willing to convey easements. It is remarkable that such a high quality habitat that benefits such a wide range of both aquatic and terrestrial species, can still be protected for a very modest price. Approximately half of the cost of the implementation would be paid for with federal, Dept. of Defense and National Guard Bureau (NGB) funds. State funds will be leveraged with federal funding. In addition, since the protection would be achieved through easements, rather than outright purchase, more acres will be achieved. Land values average \$4500 per acre and easement payments considerably less than the taxable values, compares very favorably with rates on major rivers in most of the state. Since most of the lands are in forest cover, funds for restoration of cover will be very modest. The outreach to the landowners has already been done, and there are more than 45 landowners already signed to participate.

Planning

Since most of the previous funding for this project has been Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau dollars, criteria used has followed military guidelines. There is a habitat and wildlife scoring factor into their criteria. In blending habitat values and military criteria for the purposes of this proposal, we propose the following criteria dominate the process.

1. Riparian tracts (Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers)
2. Large tracts
3. Forested tracts
4. Non-developed parcels

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

This proposal is closely related to the Little Nokasippi WMA project which the Council funded in 2010. This proposal would provide for a continuation of the work begun in 2010 with the expansion of the WMA with fee title purchase, and protective buffering through easements. Funding from the Council will also leverage federal funding through the Department of Defense.

This project has not received any funding from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Clean Water Fund, nor the Parks and Trail Fund.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

The funding requested will allow the BWSR working with partners and the Morrison SWCD to accelerate protection of habitats along the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers. Funding from the Council will leverage federal funding through the Department of Defense and allow us to accelerate the protection of this important riverine habitat.

This project will not substitute traditional funding sources but accelerates the success by leveraging federal funds.

Sustainability and Maintenance

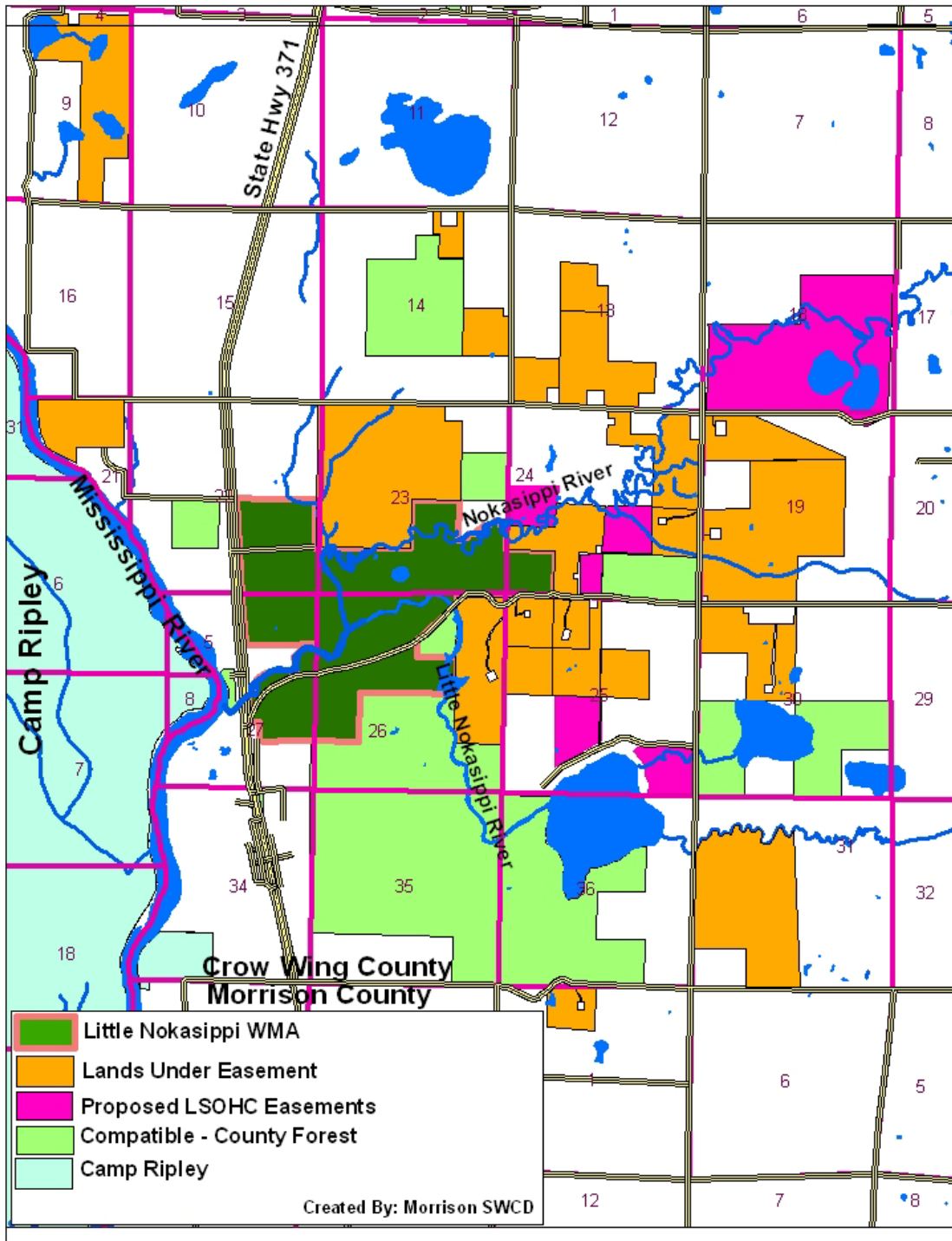
Perpetual easements acquired through this funding from the Council will be monitored in the same way as easements through the Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) program which is the successful process used for the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program. The landowner is responsible for on-going maintenance as per the documented and signed Conservation Plan, and taxes, which if favored by counties. Funds for easement stewardship have been included in the budget. Monitoring scheduling follows the RIM guidelines and funding through the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.

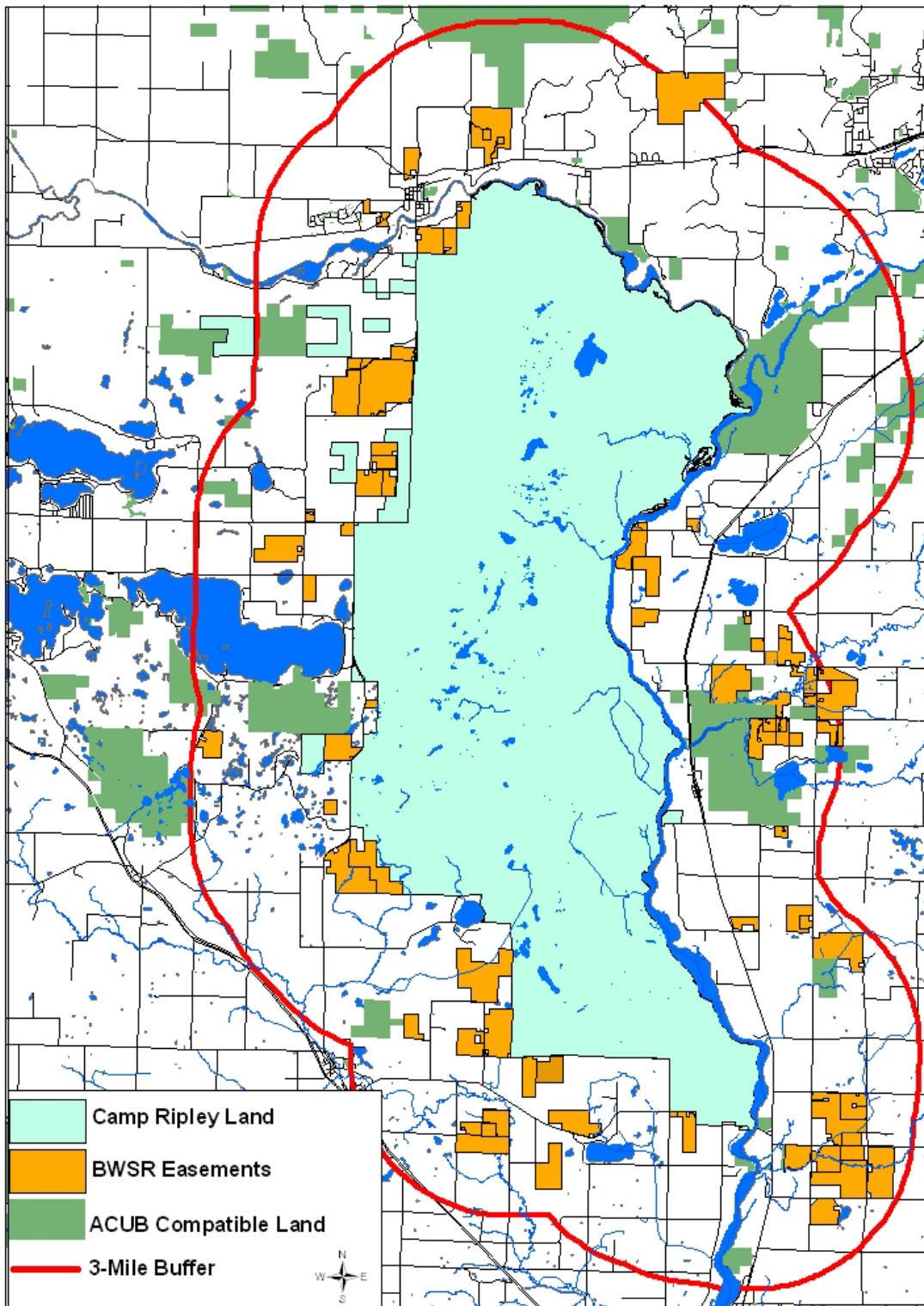
Outcomes

Camp Ripley abounds with plant and animal life unique to central Minnesota. The high diversity of life forms (over 600 plant specimens, 201 bird species, 107 types of aquatic invertebrates, 71 species of butterflies, 50 mammal species, 41 species of fish, 24 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 8 mussel species) is a result of Camp Ripley's location along the forest transition zone in central Minnesota.

While Camp Ripley does an outstanding job of protecting the habitat on Camp's side of the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers, conveying easements to keep the habitat protected on the opposite side of these rivers is a critical component to enhance and protect these species. (see maps)

Little Nokasippi River WMA Area of Influence





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: RIM/ACUB easements are permanent, but access to the land remains with the private landowner. Access for outdoor recreation may be obtained with permission of the landowner

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: Most of the easements will be on either the Mississippi, Crow Wing or Nokasippi Rivers, which in addition to being public waters, also have several public access points. Some easements will be conveyed to lands adjacent to the Little Nokasippi WMA. These parcels will not feature public waters. Please see map.

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

Priority parcels to be acquired by this proposal will be located adjacent to the Mississippi or Crow Wing rivers. Phase 2 will be closely coordinated with the Little Nokasippi WMA and Crow Wing Co. tax forfeited lands.

If so, please indicate which ones:

Past Outdoor Heritage Fund Appropriations Received for this program

ML 2009	ML 2010	ML 2011
\$	\$ 843,000	\$

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
Protect Miss/Crow Wing River shoreland	BWSR conveyed easements on 900 acres	June 30, 2015
Protect Little Nokasippi River	BWSR conveyed easements on 700 acres	June 30, 2013

Attachments:

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

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:	Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership
Date:	7/14/2011

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 3,097,900 *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>SWCD/BWSR Field Support</i>	2		\$ 161,000			\$ 161,000
<i>Admin Asst</i>						\$ -
<i>position 3</i>						\$ -
<i>position 4</i>						\$ -
<i>position 5</i>						\$ -
<i>position 6</i>						\$ -
<i>position 7</i>						\$ -
Total	2		\$ 161,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 161,000

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		Total
		Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	
Personnel - auto entered from above	\$ 161,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 161,000
Contracts				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)				\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ 2,881,700	\$ 1,000,000	<i>federal grant match</i>	\$ 3,881,700
Easement Stewardship	\$ 55,200			\$ 55,200
Travel (in-state)				\$ -
Professional Services				\$ -
Direct Support Services				\$ -
DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)				\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment <i>(auto entered from below)</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials			<i>local fundraising</i>	\$ -
	\$ 3,097,900	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 4,097,900

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

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
<i>Truck</i>		
<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	-	-

Attachment B. Output Tables

Name of Proposal:	Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership
Date:	7/14/2010

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	20	30	50		100
Protect Fee					0
Protect Easement	280	420	700		1400
Protect Other					0
Enhance					0
Total	300	450	750	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)	1500	<i>These two cells should be the same figure.</i>
Total Acres (sum of Total row)	1500	

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$ 41,324	\$ 61,991	\$ 103,315		\$ 206,630
Protect Fee			\$ 1,445,608		\$ 1,445,608
Protect Easement	\$ 578,256	\$ 867,406			\$ 1,445,662
Protect Other					\$ -
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ 619,580	\$ 929,397	\$ 1,548,923	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)	\$ 3,097,900	<i>These two cells should be the same figure.</i>
Total Dollars (sum of Total row)	\$ 3,097,900	

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		100				100
Protect Fee						0
Protect Easement		1400				1400
Protect Other						0
Enhance						0
Total	0	1500	0	0	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)	1500	<i>These three cells should be the same figure.</i>
Total Acres (sum of Total row)	1500	
Total Acres from Table 1.	1500	

Attachment B. Output Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore		\$ 206,630				\$ 206,630
Protect Fee						\$ -
Protect Easement		\$ 2,891,275				\$ 2,891,275
Protect Other						\$ -
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ 3,097,905	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 3,097,905 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 3,097,905
 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		380			380
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement PILT Liability <i>NO State</i>	300	450	750		1500
	300	830	750	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 PILT Liability <i>NO State</i>	\$ 619,585	\$ 929,370	\$ 1,548,950		\$ 3,097,905	\$ 2,881,700
	\$ 619,585	\$ 929,370	\$ 1,548,950	\$ -		

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

Attachment C. Parcel List

Name of Proposal: Protecting Mississippi Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership
Date: 7/14/2011

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												
<i>Example Lambertton WMA Addition</i>	<i>Redwood</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>10937213</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>\$5,500,000</i>	<i>P</i>			
Joyce Moran	Morrison	42	32	2	35	4232235	75	279,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Allen Groves	Cass	133	30	2	14	13330214	87	649,400.00	Crow Wing River riparian	PE	60%	no
Johy Bayard	Crow Wing	43	32	2	16	4332216	24	69,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Jim Madland	Crow Wing	43	32	2	16	4332216	27	69,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
John Balaski	Morrison	42	32	2	10	4232210	90	194,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Charles Plante	Crow Wing	43	32	2	34	4332234	60	129,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Bob Hartman	Crow Wing	43	32	2	34	4332434	35	99,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
John Ring	Crow Wing	133	32	2	26	13332226	50	159,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Randahl Hoghaug	Cass	133	29	2	33	13329233	38	159,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Debbi Kinney	Cass	133	29	2	33	13329233	17	49,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Rick Lindquist	Cass	133	29	2	33	13329233	25	79,400.00	Crow Wing River riparian	PE	60%	no
Jim Kramer	Crow Wing	43	32	2	27	4332227	24	129,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Duane Hartman	Crow Wing	43	32	2	34	4332232	35	79,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
David Gilson	Crow Wing	43	32	2	3	4332223	15	89,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Chet Nelson	Morrison	41	32	2	12	4132212	102	279,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Larry Japp	Crow Wing	43	32	2	3	4332223	15.3	49,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Bruce Paine	Crow Wing	133	29	2	26	13329226	78	259,400.00	Mississippi R. riparian	PE	60%	no
Charles Plante	Crow Wing	43	32	2	24	4332224	60	71,900.00	Little Nokasippi WMA	PE	50%	no
Robert Imgrund	Crow Wing	43	32	2	24	4332224	38	48,900.00	Little Nokasippi WMA	PE	50%	no
Mervin Eisel	Crow Wing	43	31	2	18	4331218	500	532,100.00	Little Nokasippi WMA	PE	50%	no
Michael Stacken	Crow Wing	43	32	2	25	4332225	42	52,900.00	Little Nokasippi WMA	PE	50%	no
Jerome Colbert	Crow Wing	43	32	2	25	4332225	40	50,900.00	Little Nokasippi WMA	PE	50%	no

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