

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2013 Accomplishment Plan

Date: December 14, 2012

Program or Project Title: Restoration Evaluations Program

Funds Recommended: \$45,000

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson

Title: Restoration Evaluation Program Coordinator

Organization: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and in cooperation with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

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Organization Web Site:

Legislative Citation: (to be completed when signed by Governor)

County Locations: No Counties Listed

Ecological Planning Regions:

- No Regions Listed

Activity Type:

- Restoration Evaluation

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

This program annually evaluates a sample of up to ten Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration projects and provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law (M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10).

Activity Detail

Design and Scope of Work:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a restoration evaluation panel (REP) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of up to 10 habitat restoration projects completed with outdoor heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the REP reports include improving future habitat restorations in the state and providing for transparency and accountability in the use of Legacy funds. The REP will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, stated goals and standards in the restoration plans, and applicable guidelines. The program coordinator, as statutorily required, is responsible for both identifying the sample of projects to be evaluated by the panel and providing a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining whether restorations are meeting planned goals, identifying problems with implementation of restorations and, if necessary, providing recommendations on improving restorations. As part of the restoration evaluation process, site assessments will be conducted on the selected habitat restoration projects.

In 2011 BWSR and DNR leadership initiated a year-long interagency project, staffed by a project manager and an interdisciplinary team of technical and professional experts, to cooperatively develop recommendations for the formation and implementation of the program, ensuring the effective coordination between the two responsible agencies and consistency in program development. The project team established recommendations for the development and implementation of a Restoration Evaluations Program, including options for administration of the program and recommendations on the process and methods for selecting and evaluating habitat restoration projects and reporting on the panel findings (see attached *Development and Implementation of a Habitat Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects*).

In 2012 the DNR hired a full time Restoration Evaluation Coordinator to manage implementation of the program. As directed in statute a restoration evaluation panel (REP) of technical experts was seated. This panel consists of:

Chris Weir-Koetter - DNR, Parks and Trails

Greg Larson - BWSR

Sue Galatowitsch - University of Minnesota

Greg Berg - Stearns County SWCD

Greg Hoch - DNR, Wildlife

Mark Oja - MN NRCS

The first REP meeting was convened in May 2012. At this time annual priorities for the fiscal year 2012 & fiscal year 2013 reports were established. Six Outdoor

Heritage Fund projects have been selected for evaluation during the 2012 field season. Two of these evaluations will be reported in the fiscal year 2012 report on October 31st 2012, four will be reported on in the fiscal year 2013 report on June 30th 2013. It is anticipated that up to ten projects will be evaluated and reported on for the fiscal year 2014 report.

This request supports a portion of the interagency Restoration Evaluations Program, which provides for the evaluation of habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S. 97A.056), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) as required by state law.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- No State-wide Conservation Plans Listed

Plans Addressed:

- No Plans Listed

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:

The restoration evaluation program formalizes and elevates the process of assessing project performance. Site assessment teams will use appropriate assessment measures to ensure established science based best practices are being applied on the ground in selected Outdoor Heritage Fund restoration projects. This level of assessment goes beyond standard reporting requirements and exceeds operational capacity of most programs.

This program also increases the communication of specific project outcomes and lessons learned from restoration implementation. Reports will focus on improving future restorations and provide feedback to practitioners regarding challenging situations and viable solutions. Creation of this continuous learning environment provides an important tool for improving restoration practice throughout the state.

Sustainability and Maintenance:

This program will be administered according to state law. However, program outcomes will not be sustained after the period of funding has ended since there are no additional funds available for program activities.

Restoration Evaluation

This program will conduct up to ten site assessments of restoration projects completed with Outdoor Heritage Funds and produce an annual report to *determine if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations* - M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Evaluation Panel Establishes Annual Priorities	July 1, 2013
Program Coordinator Selects up to Ten Projects for Evaluation	July 1, 2013
Site Assessment Leads Conduct Field Surveys of Selected Sites	September 30, 2013
Report Submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	June 30, 2014

Outcomes

Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount of Request: \$45,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$18,700	\$0		\$18,700
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel (in-state)	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Professional Services	\$16,000	\$0		\$16,000
Direct Support Services	\$3,800	\$0		\$3,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$45,000	\$0		- \$45,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Restoration evaluations program coordinator	0.40	1.00	\$18,700	\$0		\$18,700
Total	0.40	1.00	\$18,700	\$0	-	\$18,700

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

0 miles

Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.