

Request for Funding

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014

Program or Project Title: Restoration Evaluations

Funds Requested: \$100,000

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson

Title:

Organization: MN DNR

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Organization Web Site:

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).

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 (Panel) 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 restoration evaluations program are to provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds and to improve future habitat restorations in the State. Per statute, the Panel will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects *relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan*. The program coordinator will identify projects to be evaluated, coordinate field assessments and provide a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining *if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations*.

In 2011 an interagency team of BWSR and DNR staff developed recommendations for consistent and effective implementation of the program across the three Legacy Funds that call for restoration evaluations; Parks and Trails, Clean Water and Outdoor Heritage Funds. In 2012 the DNR hired a full time Restoration Evaluation

Coordinator to manage implementation of the program. The restoration evaluation Panel was also seated. During 2012 and 2013 the Panel consisted 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 set of restoration evaluations and recommendations is available in the Fiscal Year 2012 report:

<http://archive.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2012/mandated/121281.pdf>.

The anticipated long-term outcomes of this program are the increased success of habitat restorations and an increased awareness among practitioners and decision-makers of common challenges associated with habitat restorations and recommended management options to improve future restorations.

This request supports a portion of the interagency Legacy 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. Up to ten Outdoor Heritage Fund projects will be evaluated and reported on in the Fiscal Year 2015 report.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- No State-wide Conservation Plans Listed

Plans Addressed:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model

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 promotes the process of assessing restoration project performance. Site assessment teams will use project 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 by providing 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.

It is anticipated that program outcomes will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. However, program work will not be sustained after the period of funding has ended since there are no additional funds available for program activities.

Other Activity:

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, 2014
Program Coordinator Selects up to Ten Projects for Evaluation	July 1, 2014
Site Assessment Staff Conduct Field Surveys of Selected Sites	September 30, 2014
FY-15 Report Submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	June 30, 2015

Outcomes

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$100,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Contracts	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
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	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$8,500	\$0		\$8,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$100,000	\$0		- \$100,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Site Assessors (Various State Employees)	0.10	1.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Restoration Evaluation Coordinator	0.40	1.00	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Total	0.50	2.00	\$40,000	\$0		- \$40,000

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

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.