



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2015 Final Report

General Information

Date: 09/21/2020

Project Title: Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$1,500,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a)

Appropriation Language: \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources in cooperation with the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District to acquire permanent conservation easements within the boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund, as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Shannon Wettstein

Title:

Organization: Morrison SWCD

Address: 16776 Heron Rd

City: Little Falls, MN 56345

Email: shannon.wettstein@morrisonswcd.org

Office Number: 320-616-2479

Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Crow Wing, Morrison and Cass.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

The project protect approximately 1090 acres of habitat for fish, game and wildlife with easements along the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers and tributaries. Protection will reduce infringement and development and improve watershed function.

Process & Methods

The project built on the existing Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) partnership by protecting land through 17 easements on 1090 acres. Camp Ripley has leveraged over \$18 million dollars and is the leading ACUB program in the country. With state funds indirectly leveraging federal funds, we continue advancing toward the goal of securing 70,000 acres in easements and compatible use properties. LSOHC appropriations are typically encumbered within one year of receipt. Using state funds to convey easements on valuable riparian and forested properties and the ACUB dollars from the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau to secure the agricultural properties, the program assists central MN in maintaining its rural character. The leverage occurs at the project level and OHF funded easements do not include federal match for those specific parcels. Limiting land use conversion protects fish and wildlife habitats and promotes connectivity of two major watersheds that provide drinking water to the southern half of MN. Easement dollars have contributed to the local economy dependent on tourism from outdoor recreation activities.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

Protects habitat and connectivity for fish, game, migratory birds and mammals using conservation easements on strategic targeted riparian forest and flowage protection along the Mississippi and Crow Wing rivers and tributaries. Land conversion and development have a detrimental effect on habitat connectivity and aquatic function on both land and water. MN DNR fish surveys on Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers indicate high quality fish communities of all species of fish. This corridor includes an IBA and two high priority management areas for Blanding's turtle populations.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

Parcels within the 3 mile radius around Camp Ripley adjacent to one another to create habitat corridors consistent with natural resource management were targeted. Evaluation criteria also included ecological and habitat factors for resident and migratory wildlife species. The target work area contains high value existing habitat and public accessibility. Several plans were also consulted for evaluation and scoring criteria including the Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management, Long Range Plan for Wild Turkey, MN Forest Resource Council LSP, Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Plan, North American Waterbird and Waterfowl Management Plans, TNC Superior Mixed Forest Eco-regional Plan, and Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Ventures Plans.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

The project utilized Camp Ripley's partnership with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Local support for the ACUB program continues to be strong with a waiting list of landowners to enroll in the program.

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

The National Guard Bureau, County Governments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, DNR, BWSR and local landowners are all extremely satisfied with this project and we have been held up as a national model for both ACUB and wildlife habitat outcomes. The accomplishments of this project show the success of a federal, state and local partnership working together with private landowners for multiple social and environmental outcomes. One of the easements secured in Crow Wing County, while one of the smaller easements secured with this phase, provided a critical connection between existing easements along the Nokasippi River corridor.

What other funds contributed to this program?

- Other : \$18,000,000 of ACUB Funding from DOD and NGB to date.

How were the funds used to advance the program?

During 2016 and 2017, 42 easements were recorded on over 3,000 acres using DOD and NGB funds for a total of more than \$3.5 million in payments to landowners.

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity for RIM easements. BWSR partners with Morrison SWCD to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of the conservation easements for this program. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years after the first five years. Morrison SWCD reports to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Request	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$49,500	\$36,100	-	-	-	\$49,500	\$36,100
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,341,700	\$1,324,200	-	-	-	\$1,341,700	\$1,324,200
Easement Stewardship	\$55,000	\$55,000	-	-	-	\$55,000	\$55,000
Travel	\$2,500	\$100	-	-	-	\$2,500	\$100
Professional Services	\$46,300	\$46,000	-	-	-	\$46,300	\$46,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,500	-	-	-	-	\$2,500	-
Supplies/Materials	\$2,500	\$800	-	-	-	\$2,500	\$800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200	-	-	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Request	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$49,500	\$36,100	-	-	-	\$49,500	\$36,100
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,341,700	\$1,324,200	-	-	-	\$1,341,700	\$1,324,200
Easement Stewardship	\$55,000	\$55,000	-	-	-	\$55,000	\$55,000
Travel	\$2,500	\$100	-	-	-	\$2,500	\$100
Professional Services	\$8,300	\$8,000	-	-	-	\$8,300	\$8,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,500	-	-	-	-	\$2,500	-
Supplies/Materials	\$2,500	\$800	-	-	-	\$2,500	\$800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,462,000	\$1,424,200	-	-	-	\$1,462,000	\$1,424,200

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.1	3.0	\$18,100	-	-	\$18,100
Easement Processing	0.1	3.0	\$18,000	-	-	\$18,000

Partner: Morrison SWCD

Totals

Item	Request	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$38,000	\$38,000	-	-	-	\$38,000	\$38,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$38,000	\$38,000	-	-	-	\$38,000	\$38,000

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: -

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

- E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	660	1,090	0	0	660	1,090
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	660	1,090	0	0	660	1,090

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200	-	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200	-	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fee w/o State PILT Liability												
Protect in Easement	0	0	330	300	0	0	0	0	330	790	660	1,090
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	330	300	0	0	0	0	330	790	660	1,090

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$750,000	\$438,700	-	-	-	-	\$750,000	\$1,023,500	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	\$750,000	\$438,700	-	-	-	-	\$750,000	\$1,023,500	\$1,500,000	\$1,462,200

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$2,272	\$1,341	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

State PILT Liability										
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$2,272	\$1,462	-	-	-	-	\$2,272	\$1,295
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Camp Ripley lies along 18 miles of the Mississippi, and 8 miles along the Crow Wing River that are critical habitat for waterfowl and other Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Parcels within the 3 mile radius around Camp Ripley were targeted to create habitat corridors consistent with natural resource management, sustaining large tracts of green space/forested land. The easement parcels are within 1.5 miles of the Crow Wing, Nokasippi, Mississippi, a tributary or a lake within the watershed. Lands under easement do not allow development and include enhanced conservation practices to improve habitat and land management.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Camp Ripley lies along 18 miles of the Mississippi, and 8 miles along the Crow Wing River that are critical habitat for waterfowl and other Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Parcels within the 3 mile radius around Camp Ripley were targeted to create habitat corridors consistent with natural resource management, sustaining large tracts of green space/forested land. The easement parcels are within 1.5 miles of the Crow Wing, Nokasippi, Mississippi, a tributary or a lake within the watershed. Lands under easement do not allow development and include enhanced conservation practices to improve habitat and land management.*

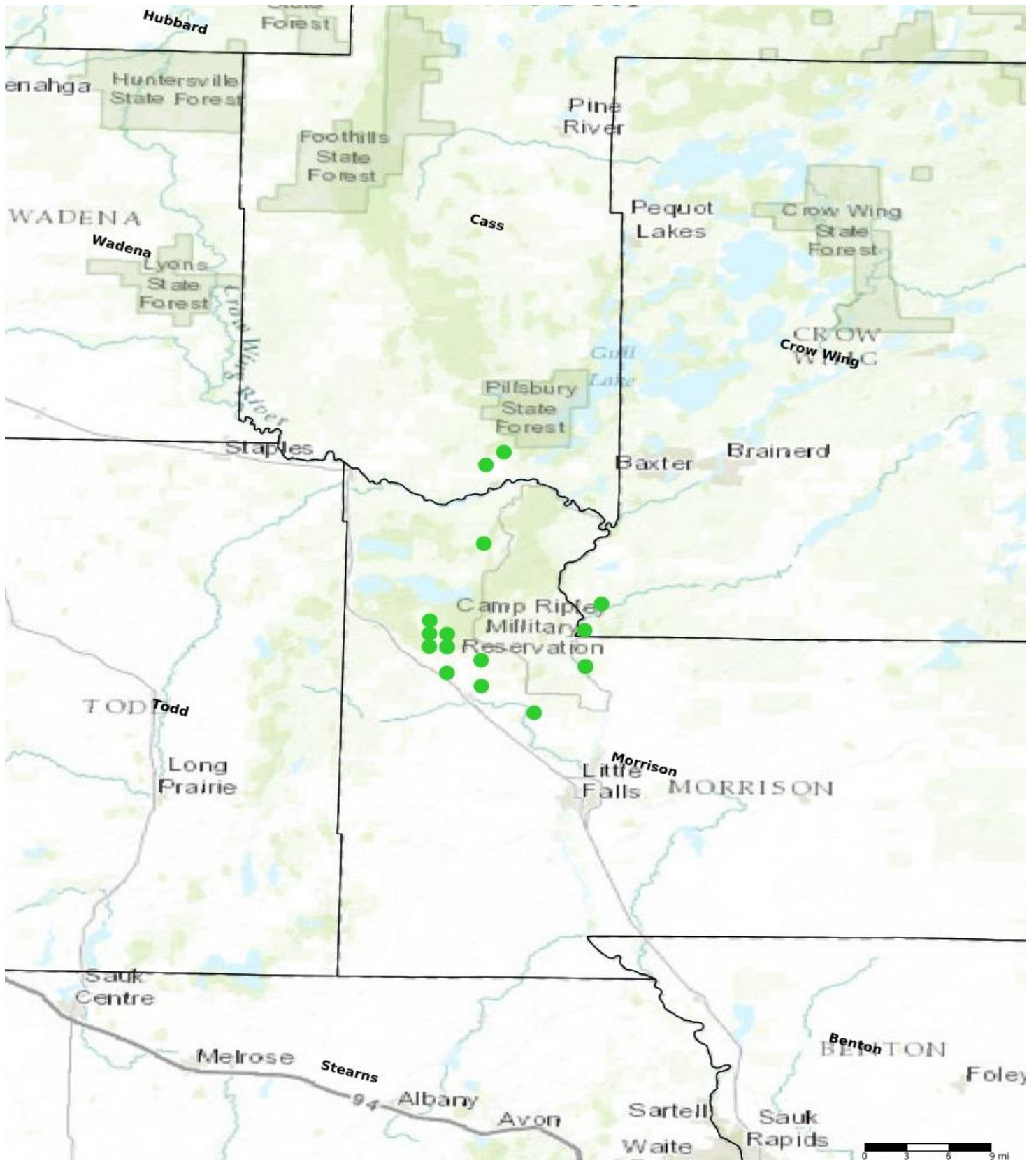
Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
11-01-17-04- -	Cass	13330204	72	\$57,700	No
11-01-16-04- -	Cass	13330208	140	\$112,400	No
18-01-17-04- -	Crow Wing	04332234	16	\$12,700	No
18-01-18-04- -	Crow Wing	04332223	34	\$43,500	No
49-21-16-04- -	Morrison	13030214	35	\$48,900	No
49-22-16-04- -	Morrison	13131213	66	\$76,200	No
49-21-17-04- -	Morrison	13130229	81	\$84,000	No
49-20-17-04- -	Morrison	04232215	23	\$96,200	No
49-18-17-04- -	Morrison	13131211	81	\$84,400	No
49-16-17-04- -	Morrison	13131214	72	\$84,000	No
49-10-17-04- -	Morrison	04232215	17	\$84,700	No
49-04-16-04- -	Morrison	13030205	119	\$164,900	No
49-02-17-04- -	Morrison	13131236	104	\$121,300	No
49-09-17-04- -	Morrison	13131223	85	\$98,800	No
49-32-17-04- -	Morrison	13230208	67	\$57,000	No
49-29-17-04- -	Morrison	13131224	40	\$41,800	No
49-28-17-04- -	Morrison	13131224	38	\$39,300	No



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other

Parcel Map
Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase V
(Data Generated From Parcel List)