

# Request for Funding

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2016 / ML 2015

**Program or Project Title:** Restoration Evaluations

**Funds Requested:** \$100,000

**Manager's Name:** Wade Johnson

**Title:** Evaluation Coordinator

**Organization:** MN DNR

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**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, provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law and delivers communications on project outcomes and lessons learned in restoration practice.

## 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. In 2014 the evaluation Panel consists of:

Chris Weir-Koetter – DNR, Parks and Trails

Carol Strojny – 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 Fiscal Year 2013 Report will be available June 2014.

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. Outputs from this program for Fiscal Year 2016 include case studies of specific practices, project outcomes and lessons learned in the field from restoration practice.

This request supports a portion of the inter-agency Legacy Fund 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 Subd. 5), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S. 97A.056 Subd. 10), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50 Subd. 6) as required by state law. Up to ten initial Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluations will be reported on in the Fiscal Year 2016 report, an additional two to three follow up evaluations of previously assessed sites will also be reported. Follow up assessments will provide valuable insight in tracking progress and estimating trajectory towards planned goals.

## How the request addresses MN habitats:

This program supports the habitat work of all evaluated projects through the assessment of implementation and progress towards planned goals.

## Please explain the nature of urgency:

Evaluation of project implementation is vital to establishing the efficacy of projects in meeting planned goals and improving future practice. The Restoration Evaluations Program represents the only formal, independent, on the ground, assessment of Outdoor Heritage Fund projects.

## 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

## Please describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Not Listed

## 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 establish that current science based 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.

## Non-OHF Money Spent in the Past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
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## Sustainability and Maintenance:

It is anticipated that the evaluation program outputs will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. Direct work of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program will be sustained for the period of funding.

## Maintain Project Outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
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## Applicable Criteria:

*If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056? - Yes*

## 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 per M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Communication materials will include case studies of specific restoration practices and lessons learned in the field, directed towards informing future practice.

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Evaluation Panel Establishes Annual Priorities	July 1, 2015
Program Coordinator Selects up to Ten Projects for Evaluation	July 1, 2015
Site Assessment Staff Conduct Field Surveys of Selected Sites	October 30, 2015
FY-16 Report Submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	June 30, 2016

## Outcomes

## Relationship to Other Funds:

- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2013, Ch. 137) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).



# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$100,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$37,500	\$0		\$37,500
Contracts	\$49,000	\$0		\$49,000
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	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
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	\$7,500	\$0		\$7,500
Restoration Evaluation Coordinator	0.40	1.00	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Total	0.50	2.00	\$37,500	\$0	-	\$37,500

Amount of Request: \$100,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. 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. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

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

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
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

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

0

# 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.