



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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### Laws of Minnesota 2016 Final Report

#### General Information

**Date:** 09/18/2020

**Project Title:** Camp Ripley ACUB - Phase VI

**Funds Recommended:** \$1,500,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(c )

**Appropriation Language:** \$1,500,000 the second 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 and restore forest wildlife habitat within the boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard Camp Ripley Compatible Use Buffer. Of this amount, up to \$72,000 is to establish 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

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#### Location Information

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

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement

## Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest

## Narrative

### Summary of Accomplishments

The Camp Ripley ACUB Phase VI project protected almost 1070 acres of high quality habitat along the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers and near the Nokasippi and Gull River WMAs through approximately 14 conservation easements.

### Process & Methods

The project protected approximately 1070 acres of fish, game, migratory bird, and forest habitat along the Crow Wing and Mississippi River corridors via 14 permanent conservation easements. This project utilized the long-standing partnership between Camp Ripley, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to implement natural resource management. These river corridors are important for fishing, hunting and recreation. In addition, the corridors are a high priority for protection locally and to the State of Minnesota, MN National Guard (MN NG) and National Guard Bureau (NGB), MN DNR fish surveys on the Crow Wing River (Staples to confluence of Mississippi) and Mississippi River (Brainerd to Little Falls) indicate high quality fish communities of walleye, muskellunge, and small-mouth bass. Camp Ripley is also home to one of the southern-most wolf populations in Minnesota and 65 species of Greatest Conservation Need including the state's highest population of red-shouldered hawks. The river corridors contain wildlife habitat and provide public recreation opportunities. Camp Ripley, along with the MN DNR, hosts the largest public archery hunt in the United States with over 5,000 participants. Additionally, Camp Ripley hosts other deer hunts, i.e. Disabled American Veterans (DAV), youth hunt, Deployed Soldier Archery, and Deployed Soldier Muzzleloader. A Deployed Soldier and DAV turkey hunt are also hosted along with a Trolling for the Troops fishing event. More than 13,000 hunting/angling person-days occur on Camp Ripley annually. Camp Ripley also makes available to the general public access to over 1,800 acres for walk-in recreational activities to include hunting on Camp lands. The Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers contain over 15 public access points from Staples to the confluence of Mississippi and from Brainerd to Little Falls respectively. This project will protect the current habitat along existing public access areas. Development along these corridors will have adverse effects to existing high quality wildlife habitat, local economies, and to the MN NG training program. Camp Ripley is located immediately adjacent to the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers. Camp Ripley contains 18 miles of Mississippi River frontage and 8 miles of Crow Wing River frontage. Development adjacent to military training sites has limited the facilities' ability to maintain their military mission. For example, the east shore of the Mississippi River has experienced high decibel levels due to weapon firing, and is also near the flight path of the Camp Ripley airfield. For that reason, the MN NG asked the partnership to focus on parcels directly adjacent to the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers to help reduce potential conflicts with homeowners. Camp Ripley is the largest employer in Morrison County. The project built on the Camp Ripley partnership's success with the Army Compatible Use Buffer program (ACUB). This federal program provides funds to protect adjacent lands from encroaching development and in the process protects the training center. Since 2004, the partnership has secured over 300 easements on over 30,000 acres. Easements that focus on forest, riparian and high value ecological habitat are funded through the OHF. Easements that are primarily working agricultural lands and provide a direct buffer to Camp Ripley are funded through the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. Although not directly leveraging funds on the same land or the same types of land, the overall project indirectly leverages federal and state funds. Over \$31 million dollars from the National Guard Bureau and Department of Army have been leveraged for landowner payments. The program is a national leader in the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program.

## **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?**

The Camp Ripley partnership completed conservation easements along the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers. Additionally, Crow Wing and Morrison SWCDs worked with landowners to assist with forest management and cost-share forestry programs. The partnership protects high quality riparian habitat before it is developed or converted to agricultural uses targeting landowners who are interested in conservation easements. The river corridors are vulnerable to habitat degradation through development and forest to cropland conversion. The Hwy 371 Little Falls to Brainerd corridor has some of the highest growth rates outside the metropolitan area. The City of Baxter's population increased 37 percent and Cass County's population increased by 5 percent from 2000 to 2010. The majority of the lakes have been developed leaving major rivers vulnerable to new development.

## **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 targeted work area contains high value existing habitat and public accessibility.

## **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.

## **What other funds contributed to this program?**

- Other : DOD and NGB

## **How were the funds used to advance the program?**

During 2017 and 2018, 49 easements were recorded using DOD and NGB funds for a total of 4085 acres and over \$6 million in landowner payments.

## **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. Perpetual monitoring and stewardship costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The

amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

## Budget

### Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Request	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$73,100	\$71,400	-	-	-	\$73,100	\$71,400
Contracts	\$22,000	-	-	-	-	\$22,000	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,263,900	\$1,270,300	-	-	-	\$1,263,900	\$1,270,300
Easement Stewardship	\$71,500	\$72,000	-	-	-	\$71,500	\$72,000
Travel	\$2,600	\$600	-	-	-	\$2,600	\$600
Professional Services	\$56,300	\$56,300	-	-	-	\$56,300	\$56,300
Direct Support Services	\$5,600	-	-	-	-	\$5,600	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$3,800	-	-	-	-	\$3,800	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,200	\$900	-	-	-	\$1,200	\$900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,471,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,471,500</b>

**Partner: BWSR**

**Totals**

Item	Request	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$73,100	\$71,400	-	-	-	\$73,100	\$71,400
Contracts	\$22,000	-	-	-	-	\$22,000	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,263,900	\$1,270,300	-	-	-	\$1,263,900	\$1,270,300
Easement Stewardship	\$71,500	\$72,000	-	-	-	\$71,500	\$72,000
Travel	\$2,600	\$600	-	-	-	\$2,600	\$600
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$5,600	-	-	-	-	\$5,600	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$3,800	-	-	-	-	\$3,800	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,200	\$900	-	-	-	\$1,200	\$900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,443,700</b>	<b>\$1,415,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,443,700</b>	<b>\$1,415,200</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.125	3.5	\$36,000	-	-	\$36,000
Easement Processing	0.15	3.0	\$35,400	-	-	\$35,400

**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	\$56,300	\$56,300	-	-	-	\$56,300	\$56,300
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$56,300</b>	<b>\$56,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$56,300</b>	<b>\$56,300</b>

**Explain any budget challenges or successes:**

The Easement Stewardship amount was underestimated for the number of easements recorded under this project. The original estimate was 11 easements, the final number of easements was 14, resulting in approximately \$20,000 not being transferred to the BWSR stewardship account for long-term management of the easements.

**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	66	341	0	0	594	727	0	0	660	1,068
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>1,068</b>

### 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	\$150,000	\$469,800	-	-	\$1,350,000	\$1,001,700	-	-	\$1,500,000	\$1,471,500
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$469,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,350,000</b>	<b>\$1,001,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,471,500</b>

### 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	226	0	0	0	0	330	842	660	1,068
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>1,068</b>

**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	\$311,400	-	-	-	-	\$750,000	\$1,160,100	\$1,500,000	\$1,471,500
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$311,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$1,160,100</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,471,500</b>

**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	\$1,377	-	-	\$2,272	\$1,377	-	-
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	\$1,377	-	-	-	-	\$2,272	\$1,377
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

0

**Outcomes**

**Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west ~ *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 which 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.*

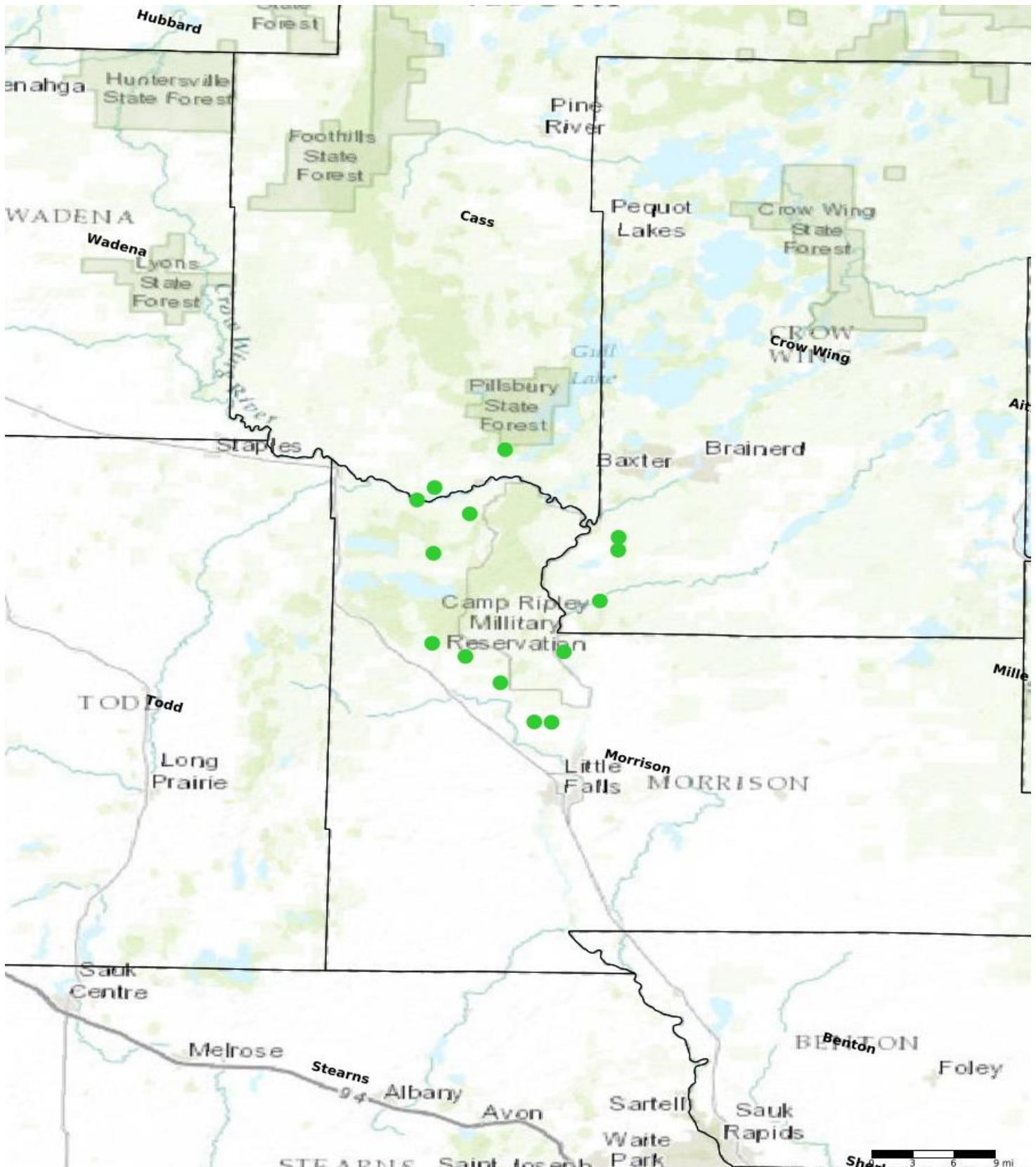
## Parcels

### Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

### Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
11-02-17-04- -	Cass	13330203	116	\$82,700	No
11-02-18-04- -	Cass	13331224	22	\$22,400	No
18-03-17-04- -	Crow Wing	04332224	34	\$25,200	No
18-06-18-04- -	Crow Wing	04431230	114	\$136,000	No
18-05-18-04- -	Crow Wing	04431231	77	\$92,600	No
49-14-18-04- -	Morrison	13030224	38	\$74,100	No
49-09-18-04- -	Morrison	13029219	35	\$68,300	No
49-03-18-04- -	Morrison	13131224	39	\$64,300	No
49-31-17-04- -	Morrison	13330232	161	\$138,100	No
49-19-17-04- -	Morrison	13231213	86	\$77,600	No
49-22-18-04- -	Morrison	13331226	193	\$258,600	No
49-14-19-04- -	Morrison	13030203	39	\$55,800	No
49-01-18-04- -	Morrison	04232210	38	\$88,900	No
49-26-17-04- -	Morrison	13130229	76	\$78,300	No



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

**Parcel Map**  
**Camp Ripley ACUB - Phase VI**  
**(Data Generated From Parcel List)**