

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2016 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 22, 2015

Program or Project Title: St. Louis River Restoration Initiative Phase 3

Funds Recommended: \$ 2,707,000

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Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: St. Louis

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

Minnesota DNR implements sequenced aquatic habitat restoration projects in the St. Louis River Estuary, as envisioned by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), and executed in collaboration with the St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) partnership.

Design and scope of work:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) continues its collaboration with The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and several other State, Federal, Tribal and non-government organizations to develop, construct and evaluate projects that will restore aquatic and migratory waterfowl habitat in the St. Louis Estuary. Specifically the MNDNR will move forward the construction of four large habitat restoration projects. The outcome of the proposed work will restore the St. Louis River Estuary as one of Minnesota's and the Great Lakes' premier recreational fisheries and birding locations. Past support by the OHF has been applied to several projects critical to restoring the fish and wildlife habitat of the Estuary, including Radio Tower Bay, Chambers Grove, Wild Rice, Knowlton Creek, and Interstate Island.

This proposal represents the third phase of work to complete the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative (SLRRI). This phase is focused primarily on the restoration of aquatic habitat in the industrialized portion of the Estuary. Specifically, this phase of the SLRRI advances restoration on approximately 230 acres of aquatic habitat within the proposed project sites. This will move the restoration partnership closer to the overall goal of 1,700 acres of aquatic habitat restored by 2020, by providing:

- Restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation beds to enhance and support healthy fish and wildlife populations within these industrially degraded sites and

- Restoration of conditions suitable for colonization of biologically diverse benthic macroinvertebrate populations, which are a critical food source for fish and wildlife utilizing the estuary.
- Increase and improve the riparian connectivity (softening of shorelines) at the project sites, which will increase and support fish and wildlife populations that depend on this critical habitat type and
- Restoration of wild rice beds that support migratory waterfowl populations, other fish, and wildlife populations as well as the important cultural aspects of this resource.

Collectively, these projects address legacy impairments to the St. Louis River Estuary, identified in the Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan, and targeted in the St. Louis River Estuary Area of Concern (AOC). Loss of fish and wildlife habitat is one of nine impairments to beneficial use of the estuary.

This work is foundational to restoring aquatic habitat in the St. Louis River Estuary. As a partner agency in the AOC, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leads habitat restoration activities. Habitat restoration will be advanced by these projects, but the work of providing ecologically healthy habitat for fish and wildlife species will continue beyond the conclusion of the AOC objectives. This work serves the immediate needs of the AOC and lays the foundation for MNDNR's long-term management of fish and wildlife habitat in the estuary.

Objectives to be advanced as part of this phase of the SLRRI include:

Wild Rice Restoration Project: Objective removed from Accomplishments Plan

Based on the outcome of wild rice restoration accomplished in 2015, which was funded through the ML2012 OHF appropriation, it has been determined that no additional funding for this objective will be required as part of this award. The information on which this determination was based was not obtained until after the initial ML2016 proposal was submitted.

Grassy Point/Kingsbury Bay Restoration Project:

Grassy Point/Kingsbury Bay Project outcomes will include:

1. Restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation beds (including wild rice) on sites degraded by historic log milling activities and sedimentation, which will improve the quality and quantity of habitat for species such as muskellunge, smallmouth bass, walleye and lake sturgeon.
2. Enhanced access for recreational anglers and boaters.

The design process for the Grassy Point and Kingsbury Bay Project has led project staff to determine that cost efficiencies could be accomplished by closely integrating objectives at these two project sites. The general concept is to reduce project costs at Kingsbury Bay (primarily a material removal project) by beneficially reusing the excavated material to achieve restoration objectives at Grassy Point. This will in turn reduce project cost at Grassy Point by reusing the Kingsbury Bay material to cap unexcavated wood waste deposits, instead of using material brought from another less desirable and more costly location. The Grassy/Kingsbury Project is currently being designed through a partnership between MNDNR, MPCA and the USACE. It is anticipated that project design, environmental review and permitting will be completed to accommodate a project start time of January of 2017.

The overall project size of the Grassy Point/Kingsbury Bay Project is 248 acres. To date, the Outdoor Heritage Fund has supported 45 acres of restoration efforts at this site (ML 2014 award). The application of the 2016 award will accomplish an additional 40 acres for a total of approximately 34% of the project. It is anticipated that additional support for completion of the project will be requested in a subsequent proposal submitted to the OHF.

The strategy for applying the leveraged federal funds for completion of the projects described in this Accomplishments Plan is continuing to be developed. The overall level of federal support for the projects remains the same as described in the proposal. However, the strategy for application of the funds is under review. The Grassy Point - Kingsbury Bay projects are habitat restoration; projects at 21st and 40th Avenues West utilize marine dredge material. The differing approaches necessitate differing approaches to funding, since federal authorities' funding beneficial use of dredge material will not apply. Therefore, MNDNR is working with other Federal partners, funded by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, to complete the Grassy Point/Kingsbury Bay Project. The completion of these four projects - Kingsbury, Grassy, 21st and 40th - will collectively contribute to completion of the SLRRI and delisting of the St. Louis River AOC as well as satisfy Federal match requirements.

21st Avenue West and 40th Avenue West Projects:

As stated in the previous section, the MPCA and Federal partnership will complete objectives associated with these elements of the SLRRI. These projects were described in the proposal and will account for 190 acres of aquatic habitat restoration. When fully completed, the overall project size of these two elements is 682 acres. Collectively, the completion of all elements of described within these four projects will move the AOC to being very close to delisting.

Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

The 12,000 acre St. Louis River Estuary, at the head of Lake Superior, is a unique Minnesota resource. It is the largest source of biological productivity to Lake Superior as well as the world's largest freshwater shipping port. Nearly two-thirds of the estuary's native wetlands have been altered, eliminated or impaired as a result of historic impacts of dredging, filling and waste disposal associated with industrial activities. Although economic uses in the industrialized portion of the estuary continue, many of the historic problems associated with waste disposal have been addressed through the Clean Water Act and subsequent actions. The proposed projects represent an opportunity to balance economic activities, while restoring the negative impacts of historic uses.

As the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 2009 25-year framework states, "Success in conservation will depend highly on leveraging traditional and other sources of conservation funding with available OHF funds and coordinating efforts with conservation partners." The proposed project is integrated with local, state, federal, tribal and non-government partners that have worked together to advance projects and secure non-OHF funding at an approximately 35/65 ratio (65% non-OHF). Minnesota's legacy funds are an integral part of the overall strategy to restore the health of this unique resource.

What is the nature of urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

The AOC partnership has worked established a deadline of 2020 to complete habitat restoration and work is on track to meet this deadline. To meet this deadline, federal support is available with a requirement of securing 35% construction support from a non-federal source. Therefore, state funds provide this critical match.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The AOC partnership used a source-stressor model to identify impairments to the Estuary. The model identified conservation targets, stresses limiting those targets, and recommended actions to address the source of the stress. Partners also developed a Quality Assurance Plan to measure the successful outcomes of the conservation actions.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Northern Forest:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

This funding provides for construction of habitat restoration projects which, when complete, meets the 2020 schedule for the Remedial Action Plan of the St. Louis River Estuary Area of Concern. More importantly, these habitat restoration projects restore degraded habitat and provide an ecologically sustainable foundation for long-term fish and wildlife habitat. Federal funding has been secured for the design work and they are being completed for all the projects listed in this proposal. It is anticipated that federal funding will be secured for 65% of all construction costs, with OHF representing a required non-federal match. The acquisition of federal funding is

currently being completed.

The 21st and 40th Avenue West Projects will utilize the resources of the USACE and its maintenance dredge program to provide material for completing some elements necessary for restoration. A state-federal partnership agreement provides accountability in decision-making and fund integrity. All partners have the resources and the expertise to complete tasks associated with the construction of the projects and participation of all partners will be necessary to complete the complex tasks associated with this work.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2010-2015	Federal dollars - GLRI	\$30,000,000.00
2010-2015	Federal dollars - USACE	\$10,000,000.00
2012-2015	Federal dollars - USFWS	\$1,500,000.00
2013-2015	Federal dollars - NOAA	\$2,555,000.00
2011-2015	Minnesota dollars - Clean Water Legacy	\$3,500,000.00
2011-2015	Private dollars - US. Steel/XIK Remediation/Slip 2	\$70,000,000.00

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

As a member of the St. Louis River Area of Concern, Minnesota DNR has the responsibility of assuring that aquatic habitat provides the ecological function that will sustain fish and wildlife populations of the Estuary. Project objectives are designed to enhance and sustain biological productivity of the Estuary. The Quality Assurance Program Plan will guide monitoring and evaluation of the work and document the progress toward the ecological targets. If targets are not being met by the proposed objectives, the partners will adjust. In addition to the Quality Assurance Program Plan the AOC partners have drafted a long-term monitoring plan to quantify post project impacts to fish and wildlife habitat and populations. This long-term monitoring effort will be funded through the GLRI. MNDNR's Divisions of Ecological & Water Resources and Fish & Wildlife will have long-term responsibility for overseeing the St. Louis River's aquatic habitat.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2019-2025	Federal dollars - GLRI	AOC project outcome monitoring accomplished by GLRI	AOC project outcome monitoring accomplished by GLRI	AOC project outcome monitoring accomplished by GLRI
2020-2025	State	Managing fish and wildlife habitat	Managing fish and wildlife habitat	Managing fish and wildlife habitat

Activity Details:

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (Public Waters)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Kingsbury Bay - restore sheltered bay	December 2019
21st Ave W - restore sheltered bay	December 2017
Grassy Point - restore sheltered bay and stream channel	December 2019
40th Ave W - restore sheltered bay	December 2020

Date of Final Report Submission: 6/30/2021

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **No**

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds - **December 31, 2015**

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators *Restoration projects in the lower St. Louis River Estuary will restore the availability and condition of impaired aquatic habitats. This work will restore ecological resiliency and contribute to the overall goal of addressing the effects of loss of nearly two-thirds the pre-settlement wetlands of the estuary.*

Budget Spreadsheet

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

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount

The design of the project are adjusted to accommodate the reduction. Although the overall project outcomes will be the same, objectives accomplished during the first phase of this approp will have to be altered. This will increase the relative importance of the program in securing future support from the this

Total Amount of Request: \$ 2707000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$485,000	\$320,000	Federal, Federal	\$805,000
Contracts	\$1,989,500	\$10,000,000	Federal GLRI	\$11,989,500
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	\$9,500	\$15,000	Federal GLRI	\$24,500
Professional Services	\$20,000	\$25,000	Federal GLRI	\$45,000
Direct Support Services	\$184,500	\$0		\$184,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$13,000	\$5,000	Federal GLRI	\$18,000
Supplies/Materials	\$5,500	\$4,500	Federal GLRI	\$10,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,707,000	\$10,369,500		\$13,076,500

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FAW AOC Coordinator	0.50	3.00	\$160,000	\$160,000	Federal	\$320,000
FAW OAS	0.75	3.00	\$165,000	\$0		\$165,000
EWR Project Manager	0.50	3.00	\$160,000	\$160,000	Federal	\$320,000
Total	1.75	9.00	\$485,000	\$320,000		\$805,000

Amount of Request: \$2,707,000

Amount of Leverage: \$10,369,500

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 383.06%

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	225	225
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	225	225

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,707,000	\$2,707,000
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	\$2,707,000	\$2,707,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	225	225
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	225	225

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,707,000	\$2,707,000
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	\$2,707,000	\$2,707,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12031
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	\$12031
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

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

St. Louis

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
21st Ave W	04914204	85	\$0	Yes
40th Ave W	04914207	105	\$0	Yes
Grassy Point	04914217	20	\$994,800	Yes
Kingsbury	04914218	20	\$994,800	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

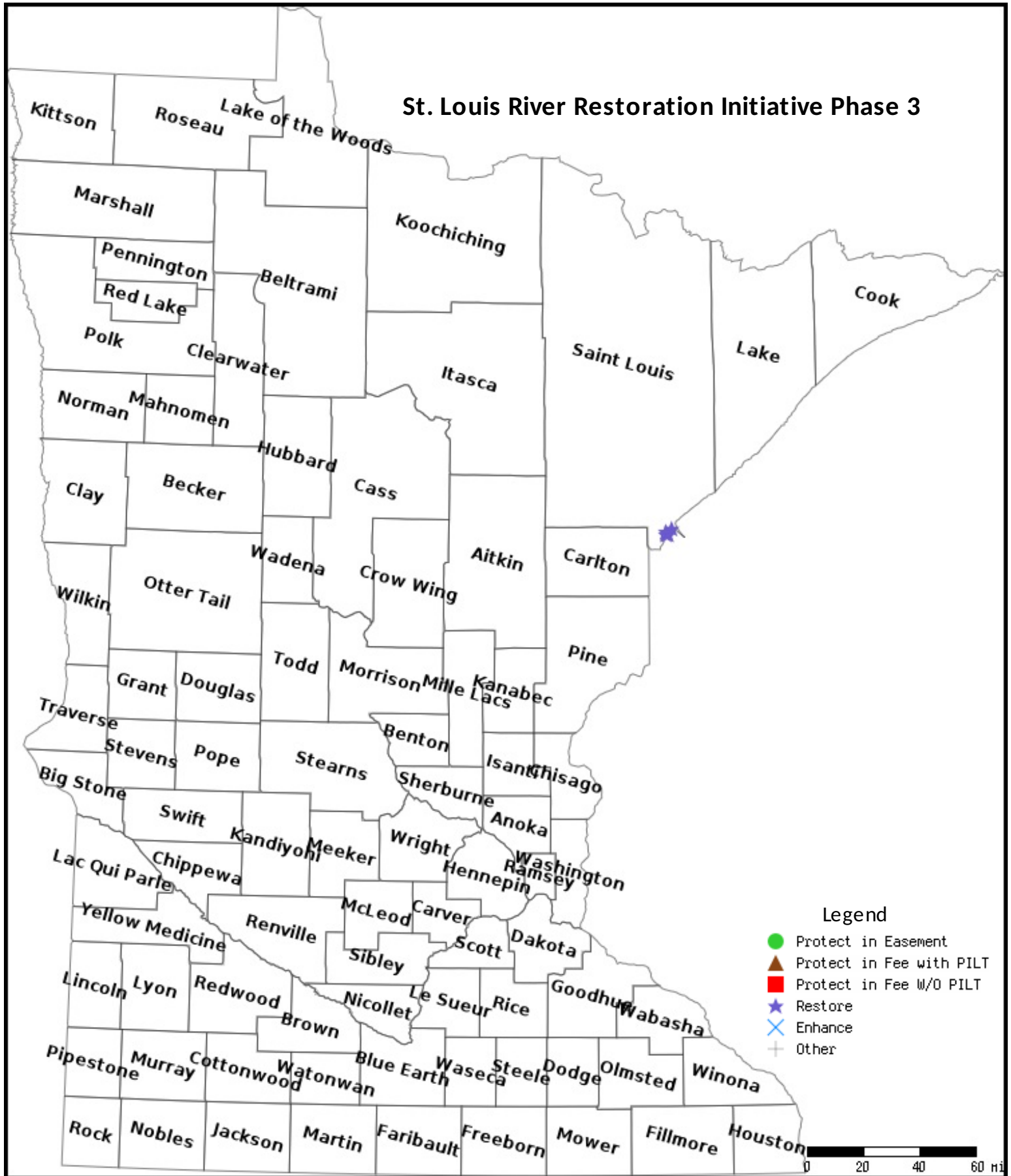
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

Program Title: 2016 - St. Louis River Restoration Initiative Phase 3

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Manager: John Lindgren

Budget

Requested Amount: \$5,242,000

Appropriated Amount: \$2,707,000

Percentage: 51.64%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$650,000	\$430,000	\$485,000	\$320,000	74.62%	74.42%
Contracts	\$4,346,000	\$20,000,000	\$1,989,500	\$10,000,000	45.78%	50.00%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$9,500	\$15,000	79.17%	100.00%
Professional Services	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	80.00%	100.00%
Direct Support Services	\$184,000	\$0	\$184,500	\$0	100.27%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$19,000	\$5,000	\$13,000	\$5,000	68.42%	100.00%
Supplies/Materials	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$4,500	91.67%	100.00%
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Total	\$5,242,000	\$20,479,500	\$2,707,000	\$10,369,500	51.64%	50.63%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

The design of the project are adjusted to accommodate the reduction. Although the overall project outcomes will be the same, objectives accomplished during the first phase of this approp will have to be altered. This will increase the relative importance of the program in securing future support from the this

Output

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	375	225	60.00%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	5,242,000	2,707,000	51.64%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	375	225	60.00%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	5,242,000	2,707,000	51.64%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-