



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2016 Accomplishment Plan

**Date:** October 14, 2015

**Program or Project Title:** Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition

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

**Manager's Name:** Doug Hartke

**Organization:** Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 212

**City:** Sherburn, MN 56171

**Mobile Number:** 507-236-1700

**Email:** dhartke@frontiernet.net

**Legislative Citation:**

**Appropriation Language:**

**County Locations:** Martin

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Enhance
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

### Abstract:

The Lorenz parcel, highest priority within the core habitat area Caron WMA, was selected to expand enhancement, restoration and acquisition activities. Local source native plant materials will be incorporated in the restoration of prairie, wetland and riparian habitats.

### Design and scope of work:

This project is designed to work through the local "Martin County Conservation Alliance," several conservation clubs and their agency partners working together to protect, enhance and restore existing and new lands for wildlife habitat. Alliance partners have coordinated with DNR, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and others to prioritize project sites and make sure potential projects are not double listed. The Fox Lake Conservation League has partnered on several projects in the past to restore, enhance and protect hundreds of acres in Martin County and the surrounding area. Several DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant projects have been completed, with some still underway. Resource professionals will develop seeding plans and wetland restoration plans to meet the project goals of species diversity. Species of greatest conservation need, listed species, at-risk species and other rare plants and organisms including pollinators will receive the greatest consideration as plans are developed to protect and restore habitat under this proposal. Protection of native habitats and expanding those habitats using seed sources on the parcels and within a few miles will be high priority for the habitat restoration work. Planting the right species in the appropriate positions on the landscape will help with the restoration of habitat that will provide maximum habitat value for the species currently using the existing habitat and those species we will add or attract to the expanded habitat base. Wetland restoration work will be planned and sequenced to minimize impacts to

existing habitats, while maximizing the long term habitat benefits. Removal of invasive species and keeping invasive species from becoming established are an important part of the project. Protecting and restoring a diverse range of habitat types and maximizing on the number of species incorporated into each habitat type will help provide resistance to invasion by unwanted non-native species, and will provide the kind of habitat that will attract new species of insects and other organisms that will serve as a food base for several additional species expected to utilize this habitat. Martin SWCD, under a permit through MN DNR, is currently working to establish listed species on more suitable acres in the county. Sullivant's milkweed, Tuberous Indian plantain and Eared false foxglove should find new homes within the newly restored acres under this proposal. Martin SWCD is currently working on habitat improvement within the Perch Creek WMA, which holds the largest known Blanding's Turtle population in Martin County. Martin SWCD will be a partner in the development of a long range plan to maintain the habitat restored under this proposal. Currently the SWCD offers a Brillion seeder, Truax no-till drill and a Vicon seeder mounted on an ATV help restore habitats. A tractor mounted Bush Hog mower removes trees up to and sometimes over 4" diameter, plus an ATV mounted sprayer helps to maintain habitat plantings from invasive species. Native plant species and more importantly balances of the maximum number of local ecotype native species available will be selected to provide a balanced bloom period throughout the growing season to maximize benefits to pollinators while supplying a balanced natural food source for the indigenous species of wildlife that need those native species to survive and thrive on an expanded more diverse landscape.

## Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **Yes**

## 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:

This request continues the work already underway to restore habitat for wildlife species in greatest conservation need. Partners include DNR Wildlife, DNR Non-game Wildlife and works closely with the DNR Ecologist to assist with habitat restoration decisions to benefit many at-risk species. Utilizing declining, rare and listed plant species in diverse habitat restoration projects, helps to expand the species list for wildlife species that can utilize the resulting diverse high quality habitat. This project will work to protect historical high value fish and wildlife habitats and restore high quality habitat, buffering these areas and providing additional benefits for fish, wildlife, recreation and water quality. This project will continue to partner with agencies to work with MN County Biological Survey data working with rare, threatened and endangered plants to establish populations in new protected locations and to restore habitat suitable for rare fish and wildlife species as well. Under a DNR permit Martin SWCD continues to partner on projects to provide listed plant materials and additional rare local source plant materials for restoration projects on protected lands.

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

Opportunities to acquire high priority lands come up once in a lifetime! As a local conservation club we need to purchase priority projects when they are for sale. If we miss core property opportunities, this land will be unavailable for the remainder of the new producer purchaser's lifetime.

## Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The parcel selection process utilizes the DNR habitat priority maps as a starting point, looking at parcels adjacent to, or in very close proximity that would compliment existing habitat, provide multiple benefits and result in high quality habitat.

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

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

### Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

### Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

#### Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

### Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Funding through the ENRTF has provided the ability to propagate local ecotype native plants and make them available for projects like this one. These plant materials are expected to be available for restoration under the current proposal. ENRTF and Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area are expected to be a part of the work undertaken through this proposal, assisting with invasive weed control and replacing them with local ecotype native vegetation.

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

Caron WMA #1 is the parcel adjacent to existing Caron WMA. It will be a positive addition to the whole unit, providing much needed upland habitats, nesting and food. Flood plain and pothole wetlands will help add diversity to this large unit and add to the contiguous habitat.

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

Not Listed

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

Local partners will continue to work with the DNR to restore habitat and protect existing habitat. Future maintenance will be the responsibility of the MN Department of Natural Resources under the direction of the Area Wildlife Manager. Martin SWCD and Conservation Alliance partners will be available to assist with special projects when needed to keep the restored/protected habitat healthy.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2017 and ongoing	Local Conservation Clubs	Weed Control	Plant local ecotype plants	Followup maintenance, weed control

### Activity Details:

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

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **No**

Upon purchase and transfer of the property to the MN DNR, the conservation club will notify the Martin County Commissioner Board.

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

The land will be under MN DNR control as parts of Wildlife Management Areas. It will be their decision to implement any restrictions.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

Will new trails or roads be developed as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

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 (WMA)**

### Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Update appraisals or order new and negotiate selling price	November 30, 2016
Close on property	December 31, 2016
Transfer property to the MN DNR	March 31, 2017
Install local source native plant materials on cropland areas	December 31, 2017
Remove non native perennial vegetation from problem areas	November 1, 2018
Install local ecotype native plant materials on treated areas	March 31, 2019
Follow-up weed control	June 15, 2020
Ongoing maintenance and weed control - assistance with DNR vegetation management.	Ongoing

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/1/2019

### Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

### Outcomes:

#### Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species *The increased numbers of each species using the habitat and the increased number of species found using the project areas will be used to measure the success of the project. The increased number of local source plant species providing a continuous bloom period from the first Pasque flowers in spring to the final blossoms of the gentians and asters as the killing frost ends the season, providing habitat and food for pollinators as well as food base to provide the diversity needed to support many unique species can be evaluated for improved value and increased use.*

# 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**

Only one parcel will be acquired with all habitat restoration work being completed on that one parcel.

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 1000000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Contracts	\$18,300	\$0		\$18,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$925,000	\$0		\$925,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$2,500	\$0		\$2,500
Professional Services	\$5,500	\$0		\$5,500
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$29,300	\$0		\$29,300
DNR IDP	\$9,900	\$0		\$9,900
Total	\$1,000,000	\$0		\$1,000,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.05	3.00	\$2,500	\$0		\$2,500
Plan development and oversight	0.02	3.00	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Total	0.07	6.00	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500

Amount of Request: \$1,000,000

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	35	15	0	89	139
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	35	15	0	89	139

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	0

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$17,500	\$7,500	\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$232,900	\$99,800	\$0	\$592,300	\$925,000
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	\$250,400	\$107,300	\$0	\$642,300	\$1,000,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	139	0	139
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	139	0	139

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$925,000	\$0	\$925,000
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	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000

**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	\$6654	\$6653	\$0	\$6655
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	\$6655	\$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**

1500 feet

# 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

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Caron WMA #1	10133123	139	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

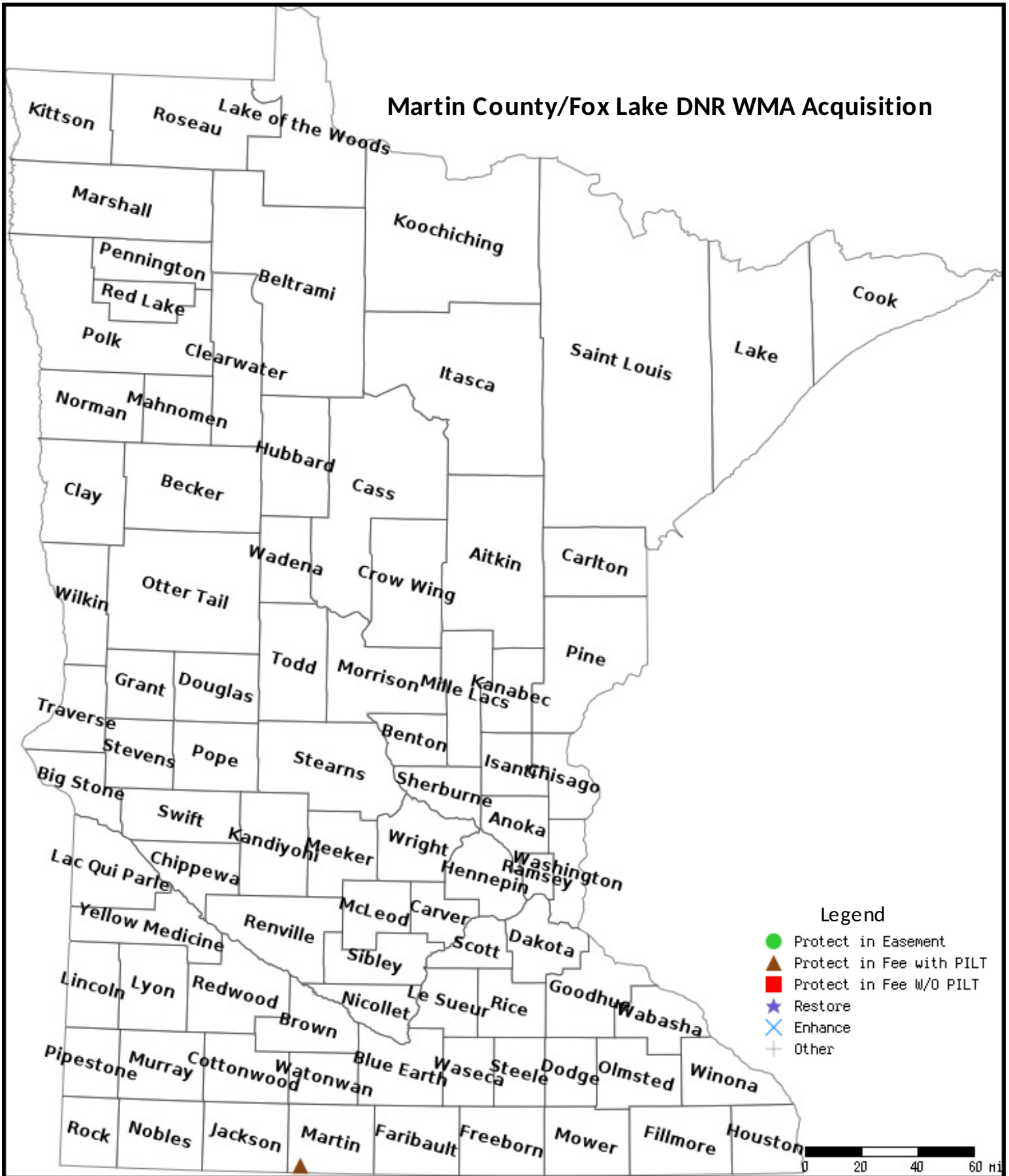
## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



# Parcel Map

## Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition



Data Generated From Parcel List

Parcel Name	County	TWP	Range	Direction	Sec	TRDS	# of Acres	Budgeting Estimated Cost	Description	Activity	Existing Protection?	Open to hunting per State of Minnesota Regulations?	Open to fishing per State of Minnesota Regulations?	Status	# of Buildings/Improvements	Buildings / Improvements Description	Value of Buildings / Improvements	
Caron WMA #1	Martin	101	33	1	23	10133123	139	1210800	purchase additional 139 acres for Caron WMA	Protect in Fee with PILT	No	Full	Not Applicable	Proposed	0		0	0

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

**Program Title:** 2016 - Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition

**Organization:** Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.

**Manager:** Doug Hartke

## Budget

Requested Amount: \$3,372,500

Appropriated Amount: \$1,000,000

Percentage: 29.65%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$25,000	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	14.00%	-
Contracts	\$175,000	\$0	\$18,300	\$0	10.46%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,830,000	\$0	\$925,000	\$0	32.69%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	100.00%	-
Professional Services	\$75,000	\$0	\$5,500	\$0	7.33%	-
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$20,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	30.00%	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$225,000	\$0	\$29,300	\$0	13.02%	-
DNR IDP	\$20,000	\$0	\$9,900	\$0	49.50%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,372,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>29.65%</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Only one parcel will be acquired with all habitat restoration work work being completed on that one parcel.

# Output

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	411	139	33.82%
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	461,500	75,000	16.25%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	2,911,000	925,000	31.78%
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	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	411	139	33.82%
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	461,500	75,000	16.25%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	2,911,000	925,000	31.78%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-