

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding

Date: June 01, 2015

Program or Project Title: Restoration Evaluations

Funds Requested: \$100,000

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson

Organization: MN DNR

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County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Not Listed

Activity types:

- Restoration Evaluation

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Not Listed

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.

Restoration evaluation reports are available: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs.aspx?oclcnumber=823766285>

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 2017 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 2017 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.

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:

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

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

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.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Not Listed

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

- Not Listed

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Not Listed

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Not Listed

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).

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

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.

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:

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.

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

Not Listed

Activity Details:

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

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, 2016
Program Coordinator Selects up to Ten Projects for Evaluation	July 1, 2016
Site Assessment Staff Conduct Field Surveys of Selected Sites	July 30, 2017
FY-17 Report Submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	December 31, 2017

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$100,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Contracts	\$41,000	\$0		\$41,000
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	\$10,500	\$0		\$10,500
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
Program Coordinator	0.41	1.00	\$33,000	\$0		\$33,000
Site Assessors (State Agency Staff)	0.15	1.00	\$12,000	\$0		\$12,000
Total	0.56	2.00	\$45,000	\$0	-	\$45,000

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
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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.