

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding



**Date:** June 03, 2015

**Program or Project Title:** Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase VI

**Funds Requested:** \$1,050,000

**Manager's Name:** Robert McGillivray

**Title:** Senior Project Manager

**Organization:** The Trust for Public Land

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**County Locations:** Le Sueur, and Rice.

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

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

### Abstract:

Protect and restore approximately 160 acres in and near the Cannon River watershed, including wetlands, prairies, Big Woods forest, and river and shallow lake shoreline to reverse habitat loss, improve watershed function and provide access.

### Design and scope of work:

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex Phase VI effort will prevent degradation and loss of quality and diversity of habitat in the prairie section of the State as well as degradation of water quality in the Cannon River watershed. In addition, it will increase the amount of available public lands for hunting and angling opportunities, especially within an easy drive for over half of the state's population.

Located south of the Twin Cities metro in an area that has seen development pressure due to the I-35 corridor and the Cannon Lakes, much of this area has already suffered fragmentation and habitat loss. Historically inhabited by Big Woods, the landscape is now dominated by agricultural fields and, to a lesser extent, development. Agricultural practices and shoreline development are also the major contributors to the impaired status of stretches of the Cannon River and its associated lakes and streams.

This conservation effort is part of a multi-year effort that includes acquisition, protection, and restoration of core parcels of land that will contribute to a large complex of restored prairies, grasslands, wetlands, lakeshore, and river shoreline.

The DNR's Southern Region Conservation Focus Area assessment tool ranked the Cannon River area as having the highest level of inter-divisional conservation priority when examined at the landscape level.

Acquisitions are targeted toward existing large wetland/upland complexes, rare communities (Big Woods forest, tamarack swamp),

shallow lakes, river shoreline, and lands adjacent to existing protected areas. There is an effort underway which involves several partners (including The Cannon River Watershed Partnership, The Nature Conservancy and MN DNR) for landscape planning in the Cannon River watershed. This effort may be able to help the Partnership further identify priority conservation opportunities and protection strategies for high biodiversity areas.

Protection and restoration of these significant parcels will provide critical habitat for game species, including migratory waterfowl (mallards, canvasback, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, pintails, and lesser scaup), upland birds (dove, turkey, pheasant, and woodcock), white tail deer, and fish (northern pike, black crappies, bluegills, and walleye). Protection will also provide access for a diversity of recreational experiences including duck, pheasant, turkey and deer hunting as well as river, stream, and lake fishing. Non-game wildlife, including species in Greatest Conservation Need, likely to benefit from this protection and restoration work includes Bald Eagle, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellowlegs, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Blanding's Turtle, Mudpuppies, and the Giant Floater, a species of freshwater mussel.

Protecting and restoring vegetative cover within basins and the riparian areas of the lakes, rivers and streams in this focus area will also help protect water quality by reducing surface water runoff and by providing ecological services such as infiltration through natural buffers to our waterways. All wildlife, and humans, will benefit from improved water quality.

Work will be completed in phases depending on funding availability and landowner willingness to sell. Properties targeted for acquisition and restoration as part of this Phase VI request to LSOHC (FY17) includes the parcels listed in the Phase V request to LSOHC (FY16) and the following new parcels:

#### Caron Lake AMA - Tract 1 (Rice County)

These 80 acres of croplands, grasslands, and wetlands include lands riparian to the shallow Caron Lake and an unditched tributary, Devil's Creek, which is rare in this area of the state. The property is adjacent to the Caron Lake Aquatic Management Area.

#### Horseshoe Lake AMA - Tracts 3, 4 and 5 (LeSueur County)

These parcels would be a valuable addition to the 160+ acres that are already protected and managed as AMAs. If these properties are acquired, roughly half of Horseshoe Lake would be protected from development and the habitat loss that accompanies it.

#### German Lake AMA - Tracts 1 and 2 (LeSueur County)

These 108 acres, with over a 1/4 mile of shoreline, are a high priority for fisheries in that they contain very high quality bulrush stands that are becoming rare in the Waterville Fisheries Area.

## 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:

All of the areas targeted by the Trust for Public Land have been identified and prioritized through state, regional and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity and connectivity. The Cannon River watershed includes Big Woods, oak savannas, wetlands and sensitive shorelines, which provide habitat for a variety of Species of Greatest Conservation need.

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

Sensitive land in the Cannon River Watershed continues to be converted to rural residential development and agricultural production. Protection and proper stewardship of high natural resource land is important for maintaining what is left of the region's unimpaired waters. Protecting this land is critical before it becomes degraded.

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

The project uses the Minnesota Biological Survey, and GIS mapping to identify priority lands for protection and restoration. We also plan to use the watershed wide landscape planning efforts discussed above to further identify lands in need of protection.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes

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

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

### 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
- Clean Water Fund

This effort is seeking the significant portion of funding for acquisition and initial restoration work from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Past matching funds have been provided from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as part of the Statewide Habitat Corridors Partnership. The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex partners will continue to try to seek additional restoration funds from the Clean Water Fund.

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

LSOHC funding would provide capital for the land acquisition and funding for the initial restoration work included in this proposal. These costs are not included in the Trust for Public Land's organizational budget. LSOHC funding will also reimburse TPL staff time, legal costs and costs for appraisals, title, environmental investigation, and survey work related to acquisition and restoration work in the Cannon River area and will accelerate and support our current efforts in this area.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2011	ENRTF	\$350,000
2012	ENRTF	\$200,000
2012	RIM	\$105,000
2013	RIM	\$200,000

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

Once the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex lands have been acquired and conveyed to the DNR to be managed as a WMA and/or AMA, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. The Trust for Public Land will work with DNR to complete a restoration plan and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. The property will be managed for the long term as a WMA and/or AMA and will be maintained by the Minnesota DNR according to their WMA and AMA guidelines.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2016	OHF and DNR Fish and Wildlife	Post property as DNR WMA or AMA	Develop restoration/management plan for property	
2017	DNR Fish and Wildlife	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	
2018	DNR Fish and Wildlife	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation		

### 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**

Notification will be made unless otherwise required.

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**

N/A. All lands acquired will be open to public hunting and fishing.

### Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Landowner negotiations, agreements and due diligence	June 30, 2018
Land acquired	June 30, 2018
Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2019

### Federal Funding:

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

### Outcomes:

#### Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *Core parcels are identified in partnership with the DNR as well as the partners of the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex. Protected lands will be measured in acres.*

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$1,050,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$92,000	\$44,000	Private	\$136,000
Contracts	\$35,000	\$0		\$35,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$853,700	\$50,000	Various state, local, and private funds	\$903,700
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
Professional Services	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$26,300	\$26,300	Private	\$52,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Total	\$1,050,000	\$120,300	-	\$1,170,300

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.30	3.00	\$92,000	\$44,000	Private	\$136,000
Total	0.30	3.00	\$92,000	\$44,000	-	\$136,000

Amount of Request: \$1,050,000

Amount of Leverage: \$120,300

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.46%

## 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	44	52	30	34	160
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	44	52	30	34	160

**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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$220,000	\$418,000	\$161,000	\$251,000	\$1,050,000
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	\$220,000	\$418,000	\$161,000	\$251,000	\$1,050,000

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SEForest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	160	0	160
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	160	0	160

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SEForest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,050,000	\$0	\$1,050,000
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	\$1,050,000	\$0	\$1,050,000

**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	\$5,000	\$8,038	\$5,367	\$7,382
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	\$6,563	\$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**

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## Parcel List

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

#### Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dora Lake WMA (tract 5)	11023210	125	\$361,000	No	Full	Full
German Lake AMA (tracts 1-2)	11024232	109	\$600,000	No	Full	Full
Horseshoe Lake AMA (tracts 3-5)	10923212	127	\$800,000	No	Full	Full

#### Rice

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 3)	11022210	75	\$255,000	No	Full	Full
Caron Lake AMA (tract 1)	11022229	80	\$480,000	No	Full	Full
Caron Lake WMA (tracts 4-8)	11022232	586	\$1,550,000	No	Full	Full
Kelley Dudley WMA/AMA	11021207	240	\$750,000	No	Full	Full
Le Tamaracque WMA (tract 28)	11022218	200	\$750,000	No	Full	Full

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

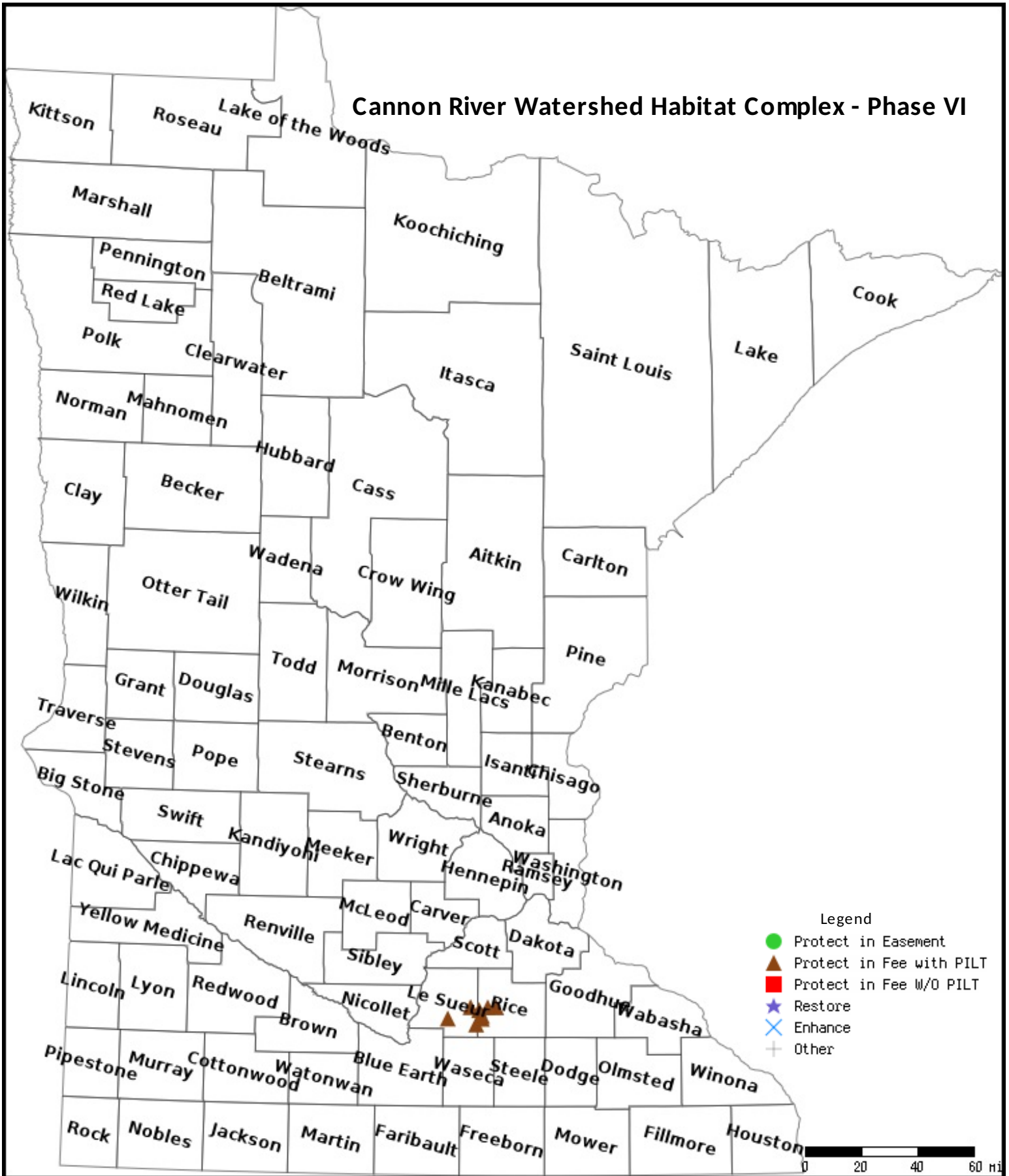
### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



# Parcel Map

## Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase VI



Data Generated From Parcel List

# CANNON RIVER WATERSHED

MINNESOTA

