

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2017 Accomplishment Plan



Date: February 24, 2020

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

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,436,000

Manager's Name: Robert McGillivray

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Legislative Citation: ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(e)

Appropriation Language: \$1,436,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Trust for Public Land to acquire in fee and restore lands in the Cannon River watershed for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquisition of lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Goodhue, Le Sueur, Rice, and Steele.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex Phase VII program will protect in fee and restore approximately 220 acres of high priority wildlife habitat within and near the Cannon River Watershed, including wetlands, prairies, Big Woods forest, and river/shallow lake shoreline. Its goal is to reverse habitat loss, prevent degradation of water quality, improve watershed function, and provide public access.

Design and scope of work:

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex Phase VII program will prevent degradation and loss of quality habitat in the Prairie section of the State, specifically the Cannon River Watershed. In addition, it will increase the amount of available public lands for hunting and angling opportunities within an easy drive for over half of the State's population.

Located south of the Twin Cities, the Cannon River Watershed has seen increased development pressure due to the I-35 corridor and

the Cannon Lakes, and 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 the major contributors to the impaired status of stretches of the Cannon River and its associated lakes and streams. The DNR's Southern Region Conservation Focus Area assessment tool ranked the Cannon River area as having the highest level of interdivisional conservation priority when examined at the landscape level.

This conservation effort is part of a multi-year strategy 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.

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 is expected to help the partnership further identify priority conservation opportunities and protection strategies for high biodiversity areas.

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 VII request to LSOHC (FY18) can be found in the parcel list below. With the transactions scheduled to close in June 2016, this program has created five new WMAs, and an addition to an existing WMA, in the Cannon River Watershed. This has resulted in 1,692 new acres of publicly accessible, permanently protected habitat.

The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex effort is supported by the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, the Dark House Anglers Southern Chapter, the Izaak Walton League Owatonna Chapter, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Prairieland Bucks Chapter (Le Sueur, Rice, Waseca, and Steele Counties), Minnesota Waterfowl Association – Scott-Le Sueur Chapter, Montgomery Sportsmen's Club, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever – Le Sueur County Chapter, the Tri-Lake Sports Club, Waterville Sportsman's Club, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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 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 qualities and connectivity. Their protection will occur through fee title acquisition, and will target Big Woods, oak savannas, wetlands and sensitive shoreline communities within the Cannon River watershed.

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. The nongame wildlife, including species in Greatest Conservation Need, that also benefit from this effort includes Bald Eagle, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellowlegs, Buffbreasted Sandpiper, Blanding's Turtle, Mudpuppies, and the Giant Floater, a species of freshwater mussel.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

This program uses the Minnesota County Biological Survey, and other GIS data analysis tools to identify priority lands for protection and restoration to create and expand conservation corridors and habitat complexes. In addition, we will consult watershed wide landscape planning efforts as discussed above and the Cannon River Watershed - Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) to further identify critical lands in need of protection.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- 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 program:

Prairie:

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

Southeast Forest:

- Not Listed

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

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.

How does this program include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grant funds will be sought to perform restoration activities on parcels acquired through this program.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

Not Listed

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2011	ENRTF	350000
2012	ENRTF	200000
2012	RIM	105000
2013	RIM	200000

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
2018	OHF and DNR Fish and Wildlife	Post property as DNR WMA or AMA	Develop restoration/management plan for property	
2019	DNR Fish and Wildlife	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	
2020	DNR Fish and Wildlife	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation		

Activity Details:

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

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

Explain

For lands acquired that are conveyed as WMAs to the DNR, the DNR has indicated the following:

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.

Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. 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.

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

Local governments will be informed of the project and project managers will be made available for questions.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) 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.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

The acquired land will be donated to the MN DNR, will be managed as a WMA and/or AMA, and will be maintained by the Minnesota DNR according to their WMA and AMA guidelines.

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

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

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Landowner negotiations, agreements and due diligence	June 30, 2020
Land acquired	June 30, 2020
Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2020

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2020

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Not Listed

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. Success will be determined based on the acreage of lands protected, and the percentage of protected lands in the watershed.*

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

Reduced acreage of fee acquisition.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1436000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$96,600	\$46,400	Private	\$143,000
Contracts	\$8,500	\$0		\$8,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,195,200	\$0		\$1,195,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$2,100	\$0		\$2,100
Professional Services	\$28,000	\$0		\$28,000
Direct Support Services	\$30,100	\$30,100	Private	\$60,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$14,000	\$0		\$14,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$61,500	\$0		\$61,500
Total	\$1,436,000	\$76,500		\$1,512,500

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.28	3.00	\$96,600	\$46,400	Private	\$143,000
Total	0.28	3.00	\$96,600	\$46,400		\$143,000

Amount of Request: \$1,436,000
 Amount of Leverage: \$76,500
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 5.33%
 DSS + Personnel: \$126,700
 As a % of the total request: 8.82%

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

The Trust for Public Land's DSS request is based upon our federally approved indirect rate, which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, and 50% is contributed as leverage.

What is included in the contacts line?

Yes, monies in the contract line may include restoration and/or enhancement work.

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - Not Listed

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Private Funds.

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	61	72	43	44	220
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	61	72	43	44	220

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 Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$300,000	\$570,000	\$220,000	\$346,000	\$1,436,000
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	\$300,000	\$570,000	\$220,000	\$346,000	\$1,436,000

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	220	0	220
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	220	0	220

Table 4. Total Funding 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	\$1,436,000	\$0	\$1,436,000
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	\$1,436,000	\$0	\$1,436,000

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	\$4918	\$7917	\$5116	\$7864
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	\$6527	\$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

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2

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

Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA	11315221	205	\$400,000	No	Full	Full
Little Cannon AMA	11018201	78	\$300,000	No	Full	Full
Warsaw WMA	11118207	120	\$480,000	No	Full	Full

Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dora Lake (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
Murphy WMA	10923208	16	\$82,600	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
Hands Marsh WMA	10923212	40	\$200,000	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
Shields Lake Overlook - Boyd Sartell WMA	11122202	135	\$700,000	No	Full	Full
Turkek Marsh WMA (tract 1)	11122232	83	\$375,000	No	Full	Full
Weinberger Lake WMA	10922201	31	\$200,000	No	Full	Full

Steele

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Aurora WMA	10619219	280	\$1,200,000	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.

Completed Parcel: Murphy WMA

# of Total Acres:	16
County:	Le Sueur
Township:	109
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	08
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	6
# of Acres: Forest:	5
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	5
Amount of Shoreline:	290 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Cannon River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$82,600
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Rick Walsh
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	rick.walsh@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651-259-5232
Purchase Date:	August 16, 2019
Purchase Price:	\$375,000
Appraised Value:	\$375,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$43,639
Assessed Value:	\$259,600
Total Project Cost:	\$375,000
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Stein Innvaer

Parcel Map

Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase VII

