

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2017 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 07, 2016

Program or Project Title: MN Prairie Recovery Project - Phase VII

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,901,000

Manager's Name: Neal Feeken

Title: Grassland Conservation Program Director

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

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Legislative Citation: ML 2017, Ch. X, Art. X, Sec. X

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Becker, Big Stone, Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnomon, Murray, Nobles, Norman, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Rock, Roseau, Stearns, Swift, Traverse, Wilkin, and Yellow Medicine.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Enhance
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

This project will advance the prairie protection, restoration and enhancement goals established in the 2011 MN Prairie Conservation Plan. It builds upon the successful model established in Phases 1 - 6 and seeks to protect 200 acres in fee without PILT obligations to be held by The Nature Conservancy, protect an additional 100 acres with PILT for inclusion in the State's Wildlife Management or Scientific Natural Area systems, enhance 7,500 acres of permanently protected grasslands, and restore 100 acres of prairie habitat.

Design and scope of work:

Protect - An estimated 300 acres of prairie, wetlands, grasslands, and savanna will be permanently protected through fee-title acquisition from willing sellers in 5 prairie core/corridor landscapes as identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Acquired lands will be prioritized according to a matrix using criteria that include: amount of native prairie on the parcel, proximity to other permanently protected areas, quality of habitat and species diversity, and suitability for public recreation. Of these protected acres approximately 200 will be held by The Nature Conservancy subject to a recorded notice of funding restrictions pursuant to a grant agreement with MN DNR. The remaining acres will be transferred to the MN DNR as part of the Wildlife Management Area or Scientific Natural Area programs.

Enhance - An estimated 7,500 acres of grassland/wetland complex will be enhanced on permanently protected lands, including lands purchased with OHF funds and held by the Conservancy, MN DNR Management Units, US Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and private lands subject to perpetual conservation easements. The primary objectives of our enhancement activities will be to increase native species diversity and improve critical wildlife habitat. A variety of practices and techniques will be implemented to accomplish our objectives such as: prescribed fire; removal of trees and woody species; invasive species control including mechanical, biological, and chemical control; overseeding with native seed; and conservation grazing, mowing, or haying. The work will be conducted via contracts with private local vendors, Conservation Corps of Minnesota crews and by using Nature Conservancy seasonal and permanent staff. Prairie Recovery Biologists, stationed in the four primary landscapes are responsible for identifying and prioritizing projects in cooperation with our agency partners, selecting and overseeing contracted work and leading and directing seasonal staff. The Biologists are also responsible for participating in and leading Local Technical Team efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery by multiple partners at the landscape scale.

Restoration - We plan to restore approximately 100 acres of cropland to diverse local-ecotype grassland and grassland/wetland complexes. Practices to be implemented include those listed as enhancements in addition to re-seeding with native species and restoration of original wetland hydrology.

The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) may be reimbursed for salary and fringe benefits based on a provisional fringe benefits rate consistent with federal regulations and negotiated annually with the Conservancy's cognizant agency. Within 180 days of the end of each Nature Conservancy fiscal year, the Conservancy will provide MN DNR with the actual fringe benefits rate for the prior year and reconcile any overpayment made by the State. This approach is consistent with ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 8 (Payment Conditions and Capital Equipment Expenditures).

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:

Temperate grasslands are the most endangered and least protected habitat type on earth. Activities identified in this project directly reflect implementation strategies identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Properties for acquisition are identified and prioritized using MN County Biological Survey Rare Element Occurrences and Biodiversity Significance. The geographies we have chosen to focus on, in addition to being Prairie Plan core areas, reflect the areas with the highest density and highest quality remaining prairie systems left in the state. By focusing our work in these particular landscapes we increase the functionality of the overall prairie/grassland systems, including increasing water retention, improving breeding and nesting habitat and augmenting migratory corridors. While our work focuses on increasing and maintaining system functionality a number of individual species and suites of SPGCN will directly benefit from this project including:

Insects - habitat management and protection specifically for the federally threatened Dakota skipper butterfly, potential restoration of the endangered Poweshiek skipperling, declining regal fritillary butterflies

Mammals - American badger (an indicator species requiring intact blocks of quality habitat), elk (particularly for herd management and expansion efforts in far NW MN)

Reptiles - hognose snake (primarily in western MN counties of Lac qui Parle, Big Stone and Yellow Medicine), 5-lined skink (rock outcroppings in the upper MN River Valley)

Birds - Grassland dependent birds have experienced precipitous population decline across the Great Plains, largely due to habitat loss on the breeding grounds. This project will provide permanently protected and enhanced habitat for a suite of grassland and wetland nesting birds, most notably the Meadowlark, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, upland sandpiper, Black tern, Northern pintail, Greater Prairie-chicken, Sharp tail grouse, and many others.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The project focuses activities on core/corridor complexes as described in the MN Prairie Plan. The plan was developed using the best available information for identifying the highest quality/highest density remaining prairie and grassland complexes in the state. Individual parcels are prioritized using the attached criteria. Important considerations include % of native prairie on tract; adjacency to other native prairie; proximity to other protected lands; and uniqueness and diversity of species present. MN County Biological Survey data and biodiversity rankings are key tools used to measure these criteria.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

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

The Prairie Recovery Project complements other efforts requesting OHF Funds and is a collaborative approach to addressing the State's prairie crisis. Other partners engaged throughout the implementation of this project include MN DNR, MN BWSR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA, Pheasants Forever, MN Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, MN Prairie Chicken Society, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, private landowners, cattlemen, and many others. This collaborative approach to landscape scale conservation as called for in the Prairie Plan results in greater efficiency of action, improved targeting of limited funding dollars, and increased attention to the issue of prairie conservation. The Biologists working under this project serve in leadership roles on the Local Technical Teams in the core areas targeted by this proposal and regularly collaborate with partners to ensure the highest level of efficiency and leverage is achieved.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2010	TNC Private Contributions	1,228,000
2011	TNC Private Contributions	1,427,700
2012	TNC Private Contributions	851,300
2013	TNC Private Contributions	480,000

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

Protection, restoration, and enhancement are all critical tools for the long-term viability of Minnesota's prairie/wetland systems. The prairie pothole landscape can only be sustained through the regular application of disturbance, including fire, grazing and haying. A primary purpose of this proposal is to continue a highly successful collaborative and coordinated partnership that accelerates the use of these practices across multiple landscapes. In many cases requested funds will develop infrastructure and enable completion of one-time large expenses such as woody species removal and installation of fencing for conservation grazing. Once those activities are complete we expect long-term maintenance costs to moderate. The Nature Conservancy will continue to seek mechanisms that derive revenue from grazing, haying and seed production consistent with our conservation goals. All resulting income will be placed in a dedicated account for future property tax payments and management of properties acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Our past efforts show that revenue generation is insufficient to pay for all associated expenses therefore we plan to seek future funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund along with private contributions for long-term stewardship needs.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Once every 3-5 years	OHF, Private contributions	Prescribed fire		
Annually	OHF, Private contributions	Invasive species search and treatment		
As needed	OHF, USDA, private contributions, lease income	Conservation Grazing		

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

No food plots will be established on OHF acquired properties. Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted Best Practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example short-term use of soybeans or other commercial crops can be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank. Neonitinoide treated seed will not be used. We would not expect agricultural crop use to exceed 3 years on any given OHF acquired property. We are currently exploring and testing the viability of alternative restoration techniques to minimize the need to farm restoration sites, including expanded use of cover crops.

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

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

The Nature Conservancy will retain and manage properties acquired without PILT obligation in nongovernmental ownership. We are committed to paying property taxes on all properties that we retain ownership of. We work with local officials to ensure knowledge of our activities but do not ask for local approval.

For lands intended to be acquired and subsequently donated to MN DNR we will notify county boards of the acquisition before closing on the property.

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**

No variation expected.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

Land purchased without PILT obligation will be retained and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Land purchased with PILT obligation will be donated to MN DNR for inclusion in either the WMA or SNA program.

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**

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, WPA, SNA, Private Land, Refuge Lands)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Purchase agreements or options in place for protection projects	June 2020
Enhance 5,000 acres permanently protected grasslands	December 2020
Enhance 2,500 acres permanently protected grasslands	December 2019
Restore 200 acres	June 2021

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2022

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands *Protection results will be measured against MN Prairie Conservation Plan goals for protected acres of native prairie and associated grassland for each geography. Enhancement results will be measured using protocols developed for the multi-agency Grassland Monitoring Network*

Programs in prairie region:

- Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands *Protection results will be measured against MN Prairie Conservation Plan goals for protected acres of native prairie and associated grassland for each geography. Enhancement results will be measured using protocols developed for the multi-agency Grassland Monitoring Network*

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

With an award of approximately 50% of the original proposal request we will expect to produce approximately 50% of the originally proposed outcomes. Because this project is part of a larger ongoing program the funding proposed will retain continuity for the program.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1901000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$396,500	\$0		\$396,500
Contracts	\$400,000	\$0		\$400,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$250,000	\$0		\$250,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	\$100,000	TNC	\$600,000
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Professional Services	\$38,400	\$0		\$38,400
Direct Support Services	\$111,600	\$111,600	TNC	\$223,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$2,500	\$0		\$2,500
Capital Equipment	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Other Equipment/Tools	\$74,600	\$0		\$74,600
Supplies/Materials	\$57,400	\$0		\$57,400
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,901,000	\$211,600		\$2,112,600

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Prairie Recovery Biologist	0.89	2.00	\$124,500	\$0		\$124,500
Protection Staff	0.49	2.00	\$84,900	\$0		\$84,900
Seasonal Habitat Crews	2.68	2.00	\$111,800	\$0		\$111,800
TNC Land Stewards	0.09	2.00	\$12,700	\$0		\$12,700
Project Management	0.14	2.00	\$28,400	\$0		\$28,400
TNC Science Staff	0.06	2.00	\$12,100	\$0		\$12,100
Grant Administration	0.13	2.00	\$22,100	\$0		\$22,100
Total	4.48	14.00	\$396,500	\$0		\$396,500

Capital Equipment

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
UTV	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
Tracked prescribed fire UTV	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Total	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000

Amount of Request: \$1,901,000

Amount of Leverage: \$211,600

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.13%

DSS + Personnel: \$508,100

As a % of the total request: 26.73%

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

DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federally Negotiated rate as proposed and subsequently approved by the US Dept. of

Interior. The portion requested from the grant represents 50% of this rate, with the remaining 50% contributed as leverage.

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

Yes, the contract line item represents only restoration/enhancement activities. Typical contractors include private vendors and Conservation Corps of MN/IA.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The leverage offered on the DSS line item reflects one-half of the Conservancy's federally approved indirect rate. The leverage found on the Acquire in Fee without PILT line represents 20% of acquisition costs placed in an endowment ensuring long-term management and property tax obligations are met. Both represent private contributions.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	25	75	0	0	100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	25	75	0	0	100
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	50	150	0	0	200
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	2,000	5,500	0	0	7,500
Total	2,100	5,800	0	0	7,900

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	50
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	100
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	3,500
Total	3,650

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$37,500	\$112,500	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$75,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$325,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$125,000	\$425,800	\$0	\$0	\$550,800
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$251,000	\$624,200	\$0	\$0	\$875,200
Total	\$488,500	\$1,412,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,901,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	50	0	50	0	100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	50	0	50	0	100
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	100	0	100	0	200
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	3,750	0	3,750	0	7,500
Total	0	3,950	0	3,950	0	7,900

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$150,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$162,500	\$0	\$162,500	\$0	\$325,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$275,400	\$0	\$275,400	\$0	\$550,800
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$437,600	\$0	\$437,600	\$0	\$875,200
Total	\$0	\$950,500	\$0	\$950,500	\$0	\$1,901,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$1500	\$1500	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3000	\$3333	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$2500	\$2839	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$126	\$113	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$1500	\$0	\$1500	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$3250	\$0	\$3250	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$2754	\$0	\$2754	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$117	\$0	\$117	\$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

Becker

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	13942201	99	\$1,000	Yes

Big Stone

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	12446210	99	\$999	Yes

Chippewa

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	11739213	99	\$999	Yes

Clay

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	14247204	99	\$999	Yes

Cottonwood

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	10734220	99	\$999	Yes

Kandiyohi

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	12233215	99	\$999	Yes

Kittson

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	16045206	99	\$999	Yes

Lac qui Parle

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	11943211	99	\$999	Yes

Lincoln

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	10945217	99	\$999	Yes

Lyon

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	11243218	99	\$999	Yes

Mahnomen

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	14642208	99	\$999	Yes

Murray

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	10740210	99	\$1,000	Yes
NA	10740210	99	\$1,000	Yes

Nobles

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	10140225	99	\$1,000	Yes
NA	10140225	99	\$1,000	Yes

Norman

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	14647203	99	\$999	Yes

Pennington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	15345230	99	\$1,000	Yes
NA	15345230	99	\$1,000	Yes

Pipestone

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	10846219	99	\$999	Yes

Polk

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	15449201	99	\$999	Yes

Pope

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	12336214	99	\$999	Yes

Red Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	15144202	99	\$999	Yes

Rock

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	10345227	99	\$1,000	Yes
NA	10345227	99	\$1,000	Yes

Roseau

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	16242207	99	\$999	Yes

Stearns

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	12335216	99	\$999	Yes

Swift

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	12042212	99	\$999	Yes

Traverse

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	12548220	99	\$1,000	Yes
NA	12548220	99	\$1,000	Yes

Wilkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	13647205	99	\$999	Yes

Yellow Medicine

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
NA	11546221	99	\$999	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Becker

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	13942201	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full
NA	13942201	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full

Big Stone

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	12446210	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	12446210	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Chippewa

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	11739213	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	11739213	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Clay

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	14247204	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	14247204	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Cottonwood

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	10734220	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	10734220	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Kandiyohi

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	12233215	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	12233215	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Kittson

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	16045206	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	16045206	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Lac qui Parle

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	11943211	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	11943211	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Lincoln

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	10945217	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	10945217	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Lyon

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	11243218	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	11243218	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Mahnomon

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	14642208	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	14642208	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Murray

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	10740210	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full
NA	10740210	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full

Nobles

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	10140225	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full
NA	10140225	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full

Norman

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	14647203	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	14647203	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Pennington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	15345230	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full
NA	15345230	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full

Pipestone

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	10846219	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	10846219	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Polk

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	15449201	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	15449201	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Pope

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	12336214	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	12336214	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Red Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	15144202	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	15144202	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Rock

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	10345227	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full
NA	10345227	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full

Roseau

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	16242207	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	16242207	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Stearns

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	12335216	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	12335216	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Swift

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	12042212	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	12042212	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Traverse

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	12548220	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full
NA	12548220	99	\$1,000	No	Full	Full

Wilkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	13647205	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	13647205	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Yellow Medicine

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
NA	11546221	99	\$999	No	Full	Full
NA	11546221	99	\$999	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

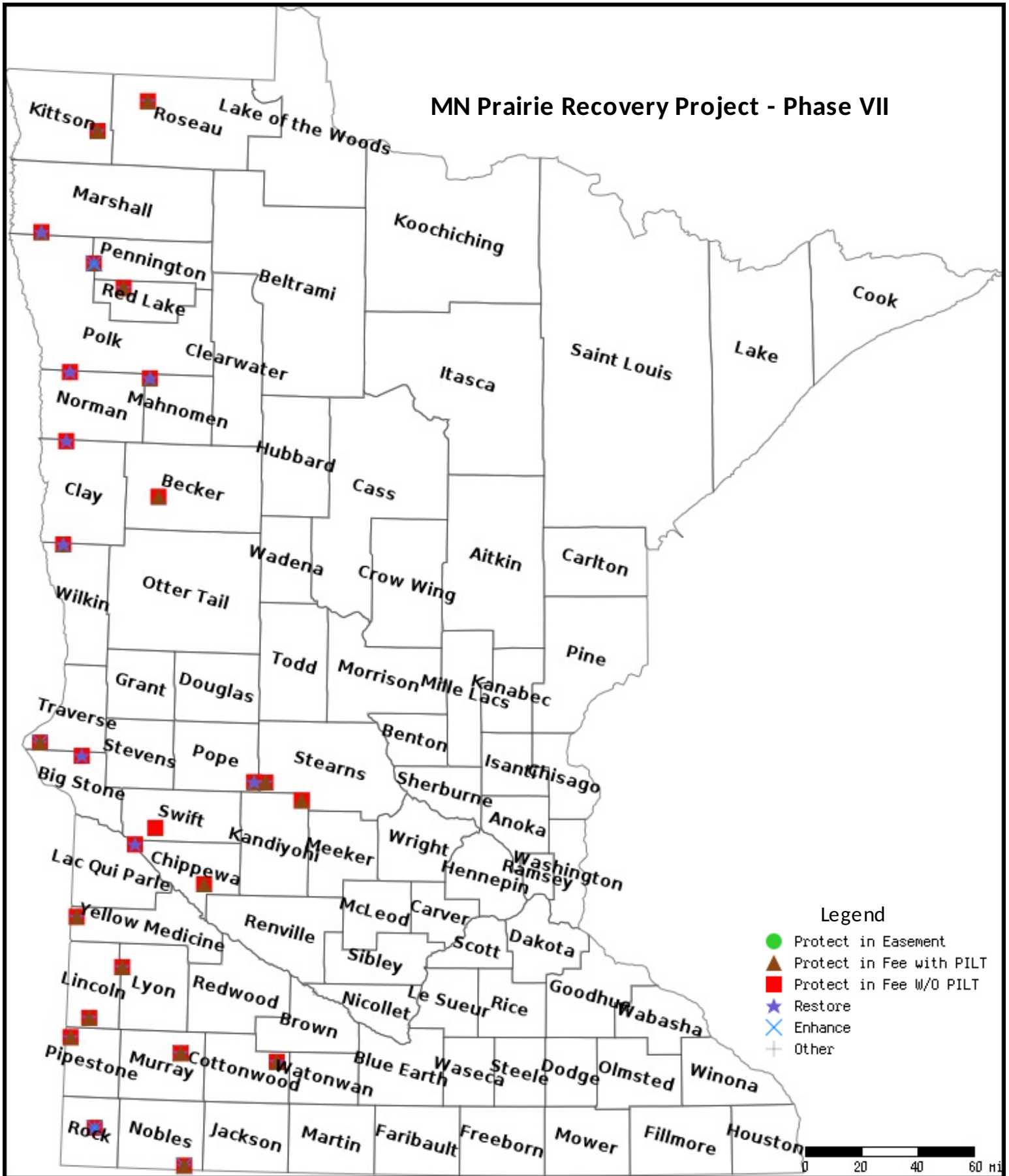
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

MN Prairie Recovery Project - Phase VII



Data Generated From Parcel List

**Parcel Selection Criteria used by The Nature Conservancy for
the Minnesota Prairie Recovery project funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund**

The purpose of the Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project is to accelerate and coordinate conservation activities in the prairie regions of Minnesota, and to ensure that the remaining 200,000 acres of remnant native prairie are protected, that restorations complement these remnants and provide critical buffers and corridors, and that all remnant habitats are effectively enhanced with proper use of prescribed fire and control of undesirable species.

To accomplish this purpose, The Nature Conservancy proposes to acquire in fee key tracts of prairies and associated lands to provide maximum protection and opportunity for restoration and enhancement. In looking at restoring prairie functions at a landscape scale, the following criteria will be considered in our identification of appropriate parcels for acquisition:

1. **Native prairie on all or most of tract, or adjacency to existing native prairie.** Emphasis of the project is protecting and enhancing native prairie, as identified by DNR County Biological Survey or site inspection by trained biologist. Protecting native prairie includes the need to buffer and connect native remnants via restoration of non-native lands. We will identify and work with private landowners to acquire tracts that further our goal of native prairie conservation, and in particular, those that meet the other criteria listed below.
2. **Within core area boundary or in critical corridors between core areas.** The project will attempt to build "functioning landscapes" by concentrating in areas with a good core of existing native prairie. We are using the DNR County Biological Survey as a starting point for identifying these core areas. While CBS has identified 38 possible core areas, we will focus within or adjacent to one of 5 areas including: Tallgrass Aspen Parkland, northern Agassiz Beach Ridge, upper Minnesota River Valley, Ordway-Glacial Lakes area, or the Prairie Coteau. Priority will be given to those parcels that are within core areas or that help form critical corridors to maintain landscape function. Selection of tracts will also be guided by the strategies and objectives outlined in TNC's ecoregional conservation action plans.
3. **Near existing protected lands.** Building larger protected complexes is preferred to simplify and reduce overall management costs. In general, larger protected blocks are more effective at conserving the full array of wildlife species and biological diversity. Tracts near existing protected lands will be prioritized higher than those that are isolated.
4. **Greater habitat and species diversity, or host to unique species.** Parcels that host a rare habitat or a continuum of habitats, such as interconnected upland, wetland, riparian, and stream features, will be recognized as having added ecological value and given greater priority. Tracts with underrepresented, small-scale features (e.g., threatened species), will also be prioritized.
5. **Suitability for ultimate assumption by DNR (WMA or SNA).** The Conservancy is proposing to hold these lands for an indefinite period of time. However, we recognize that public ownership of some or all of the acquired properties may be preferable in the future. In order to facilitate this, we will consult with the DNR prior to acquisition regarding the suitability of proposed acquisition tracts for future consideration as a Wildlife Management Area or Scientific and Natural Area.
6. **No buildings or CRP issues.** Existing buildings pose a challenge because they may not be eligible for Outdoor Heritage Fund use and they require additional effort to demolish or sell. Similarly, lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program can complicate the appraisal and

acquisition process. We will give priority to those parcels that have neither buildings nor existing long term CRP leases.

7. **Suitable for grazing.** A principal element of this proposal is to use conservation grazing as a way to meet ecological objectives and to generate income. Lands that are suitable for grazing, or that have recently been used for grazing, will be prioritized.
8. **Willing seller.** We will only work with willing sellers, and those that can abide by the statutory process laid out for use of public funds.
9. **Suitability for public recreation.** Constitutional language requires that these lands be open to public taking of fish and game. We will prioritize those parcels that can foster those public uses.
10. **Additional restrictions or conditions** as specified by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, public laws and rules, and program policies that direct acquisition priorities.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

Program Title: 2017 - MN Prairie Recovery Project - Phase VII

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Manager: Neal Feeken

Budget

Requested Amount: \$3,778,300

Appropriated Amount: \$1,901,000

Percentage: 50.31%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$779,500	\$0	\$396,500	\$0	50.87%	-
Contracts	\$800,000	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	50.00%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$500,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	50.00%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$100,000	50.00%	50.00%
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$49,700	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	50.30%	-
Professional Services	\$82,800	\$0	\$38,400	\$0	46.38%	-
Direct Support Services	\$223,800	\$231,700	\$111,600	\$111,600	49.87%	48.17%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$5,000	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	50.00%	-
Capital Equipment	\$60,000	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	75.00%	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$118,100	\$0	\$74,600	\$0	63.17%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$159,400	\$0	\$57,400	\$0	36.01%	-
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Total	\$3,778,300	\$431,700	\$1,901,000	\$211,600	50.31%	49.02%

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

With an award of approximately 50% of the original proposal request we will expect to produce approximately 50% of the originally proposed outcomes. Because this project is part of a larger ongoing program the funding proposed will retain continuity for the program.

Output

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200	100	50.00%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	200	100	50.00%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	600	200	33.33%
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	15,000	7,500	50.00%

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200,000	150,000	75.00%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	513,800	325,000	63.25%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	1,062,000	550,800	51.86%
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	2,002,500	875,200	43.71%

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200	100	50.00%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	200	100	50.00%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	600	200	33.33%
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	15,000	7,500	50.00%

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200,000	150,000	75.00%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	513,800	325,000	63.25%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	1,062,000	550,800	51.86%
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	2,002,500	875,200	43.71%