

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2018 / ML 2017 Request for Funding



Date: June 15, 2016

Program or Project Title: Camp Ripley ACUB - Phase VII (FA03)

Funds Requested: \$3,000,000

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County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest

Abstract:

This Phase 7 continuation of the RIM Camp Ripley ACUB Partnership project will utilize permanent conservation easements to acquire 1,320 acres of high quality habitat along the Crow Wing, Gull, Nokasippi, and Mississippi River corridors. Approximately 22 easements will be secured within the project area. BWSR will utilize the RIM Easement process in partnership with the Morrison SWCD to secure easements on sites within Crow Wing, Cass, and Morrison Counties during the appropriation term.

Design and scope of work:

The purpose of this initiative is to protect approximately 1,320 acres of fish, game, migratory bird, and forest habitat along the Crow Wing, Gull, Nokasippi, and Mississippi River corridors within an approximately five mile radius of Camp Ripley. Phase 7 of this successful project plans to secure approximately 22 permanent conservation easements, utilizing partnerships with Camp Ripley, a State Game Refuge, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Easement acquisition will occur in those portions of Morrison, Crow Wing, and Cass County that lie within this five mile radius.

Easement acquisition in this area will protect these river corridors, which are critical to the general public for fishing, hunting, and recreational opportunities. The Nokasippi River and Gull River Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) lie within this area and will benefit from the maintained corridor connectivity seen through this protection effort. In addition, this corridor is instrumental to the State of Minnesota, MN National Guard (MNNG) and National Guard Bureau (NGB), local economy, the National Mississippi River Flyway, and Mississippi Headwaters Board.

Parcels are targeted that have quality existing habitat, protect corridors and large habitat complexes and reduce future fragmentation. Evaluation criteria include ecological and habitat factors for resident and migratory wildlife species. The target area has been limited to ensure a concentration of easement acquisitions that provide landscape scale benefits and will allow for protection of some very large forested parcels that are in imminent threat of conversion.

The forested region of these three counties is where agriculture transitions to state forested lands. Thousands of acres just outside of this work area are being converted from forest to annual cropping, primarily for potato production. Forests not only provide critical wildlife habitat for furbearing animals and turkeys, the forests lessen the impact of water quality contamination from agricultural practices. This region of the state, most specifically Morrison County, is the fastest growing county in the state for the loss of grazing land to annual cropping. The loss of forests would exaggerate that problem even more. Drinking water standards in the area are also in jeopardy with the increase in irrigation and large scale livestock operations, so protecting the forested lands has become a critical issue.

In 2015, Camp Ripley, through state law, was designated as the first state Sentinel Landscape in the Nation. This designation by both State and Federal entities coordinates strategies to protect this landscape. Many agencies will be identifying their scope of priorities within the Sentinel Landscape ten mile boundary. As one of the strategies of this Sentinel Landscape effort, this proposal seizes the opportunity to expand the Camp Ripley ACUB borders to a five mile radius.

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 Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

MFRC Landscape Plans recommend a strategy of large blocks of contiguous forest land that have minimal inclusion of conflicting land uses will be created and/or retained for natural resource and ecological benefits and to minimize land use conflicts. The prioritization of this project area boundary will limit fragmentation and ensure contiguous forest land protection. Several of the permanent easement sites secured through this Program will protect sensitive and/or undeveloped shoreline along the Crow Wing, Gull, Nokasippi, and Mississippi Rivers.

The 25 Year Framework expects an outcome that forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation. This Program will secure 1,320 acres of high quality habitat to restrict future development, sustain habitat connectivity, and maintain large forested habitat blocks within the project area.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Northern Forest:

- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Development pressure along this vulnerable corridor will continue. In the Northern Forest section, forest-based wildlife habitat has experienced substantial decline in recent decades. Securing permanent RIM easements will protect habitat and forestland from further parcelization and fragmentation, as well as forest to cropland conversion, especially irrigated agriculture.

The shallow lakes, habitat complexes, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife in the Forest/Prairie Transition section are also at risk. These river corridors are very vulnerable to habitat degradation through development and forest to cropland conversion. The Hwy 371 Little Falls to Brainerd corridor is projected to have some of the highest growth rates outside the metropolitan area. According to the 2010 US Census Bureau, the City of Baxter's population has increased 37 percent and Cass County's population increased by 5 percent from 2000 to 2010. Impervious surface cover has increased in Sylvan, Crow Wing, and Fort Ripley townships over the last 10 years with much of the development near the Gull, Mississippi, and Crow Wing Rivers (UMN Land Cover 1990-2000). The majority of the lakes have exhausted available development space leaving these major rivers vulnerable to new development.

Securing 1,320 acres under permanent easements through this Program will protect these important habitat corridors, providing multiple benefits in the face of climate change and other major stressors.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Parcels are targeted that have quality existing habitat, protect corridors and large habitat complexes and will reduce future fragmentation. Evaluation criteria include ecological and habitat factors for resident and migratory wildlife species. The target area has been limited to ensure a concentration of easement acquisitions that provide landscape scale benefits. The target work area also contains high value existing habitat and public access via existing WMAs that are being buffered with easements.

The MN County Biological survey has identified several native plant communities within this project area that are vulnerable to extirpation, as well as sites with existing high biodiversity. Most of these identified areas lie within the northern extent of this 5 mile boundary, which also happens to face high development pressure due to its proximity to the cities of Baxter & Brainerd. Protecting these parcels is a high priority for the ACUB Program.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

These lands provide habitat for several Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), which include the Northern Long-Eared Bat (threatened), Bald Eagle, and Gray Wolf. There are a total of 65 SGCN found on Camp Ripley. Camp Ripley is home to one of the southern-most wolf populations in Minnesota and the state's highest population of Red-shouldered Hawks. In a 2006 study at Camp Ripley, it was found that the amount of mature deciduous forest was positively associated with Red-shouldered Hawk nest sites.

MN DNR 2009 and 2010 fish surveys on the Crow Wing River (Staples to confluence of Mississippi) and Mississippi River (Brainerd to Little Falls) indicate high quality fish communities of Walleye, Muskellunge, and Small-mouth Bass.

The majority of the project area falls within the Anoka Sand Plain and the Hardwood Hills Ecological Subsections. Currently much of the Hardwood Hills subsection is farmed. Important areas of forest and prairie exist, but they are small and fragmented. Urban development and agriculture occur in 1/3 of the Anoka Sand Plain. This project seeks to protect remaining lands from the threat of development or agricultural pressure, as well as sustain the current connectivity of these habitats.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

DNR staff, in consultation with a variety of experts in NGOs and other agencies, have compiled a select group of indicator species and associated quantities to be used by any applicant to answer the question above.

Ovenbird

Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) are found in upland forests statewide; typically in relatively mature forest but can also be found in younger forests. This species has been identified as a priority species to monitor, as an indication of the health of mature forest uplands, within the area represented by the LSOHC Northern Forest planning section. While territories vary in size and may overlap, an average of 10 pairs for every 10 hectares may be translated to roughly 16 pairs for every 40 acres.

White-tailed deer

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) use a wide variety of forested habitats, are found throughout Minnesota, and are an important game species in the state. Deer have also been suggested as potential ecological indicators for forest systems. In the 33 forested deer permit areas for which deer densities are estimated, covering most of the LSOHC Northern Forest section, the six-year average (2010-2015) for pre-fawn deer densities across all deer permit areas is 13 deer per square mile of land (excluding water) . This translates to 0.02 deer (pre-fawning) per acre of forest land habitat or roughly 1 deer (pre-fawning) for every 50 acres of land.

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation *A summary of the total of wetland acres and associated forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. Sustained habitat availability within a certain region is expected to maintain the carrying capacity of associated wildlife within that region. This would affect both game and nongame species. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured.*

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west. A summary of the total of wetland acres and associated forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. Sustained habitat availability within a certain region is expected to maintain the carrying capacity of associated wildlife within that region. This would affect both game and nongame species. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured.

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

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and enforcement of its conservation easements. Easements are monitored for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site monitoring is performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and stewardship costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and enforcement.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2017-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Compliance Checks first 5 years then every 3rd year.	Corrective actions of any violations.	Enforcement Action taken by MN Attorney Generals office.
2017-Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms.		

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

Morrison, Crow Wing and Cass counties are transition areas where agriculture gives way to forests. Increasing demand for cropland is leading to rapid loss of forested lands. Forest conversion is an intensely controversial topic in this region of the state. Thousands of acres just outside of this work area are being converted from forest to annual cropping, primarily for potato production. This region of the state, most specifically Morrison County has the fastest conversion rate from forest to row crop production of any county within the state. Drinking water in the area is also in jeopardy with the increase in irrigation and large scale livestock operations, so protecting the forested lands has become a critical issue. The opportunity to protect significant parcels of forest and riparian lands in this area is rapidly diminishing and will disappear altogether within the next few years.

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

This proposal seeks to build on the previous successes that OHF Phases 1-6 were able to provide, building upon the connectivity and habitat protection efforts of past appropriations. Furthermore, from 2010 through 2015, Camp Ripley partnership had huge success with the LSOHC Little Nokasippi WMA project. The partnership enrolled 3,074.7 acres into conservation easements, increased public access to the WMA by 262 acres, and buffered the WMA from future development. This project will utilize lessons learned from the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 LSOHC grants and will complement the MN DNR Gull River WMA.

Since 2004, the Department of Defense (DOD) and National Guard Bureau (NGB) have been working toward development restriction in this area. The federal easement program is designed to preserve the working and rural character of these private lands, while considering habitat benefits or protection. The state Sentinel Landscape designation in 2015 and expected federal Sentinel Landscape designation in June 2016 will solidify the state and federal missions in this area.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund
- DOD and NGB

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Due to the success of the Camp Ripley Partnership, the MN Legislature passed the Sentinel Landscape Designation in 2015. This law will formalize a process that we have used for years to enhance the effect of the ACUB Program and it will complement a national direction

of the Department of Defense. Establishing Sentinel Landscapes in state law will provide a model for the nation and it will allow us to more effectively compete for federal funding from agencies beyond just the Department of Defense. It will also better align federal and state programs that could support private landowners in a Sentinel Landscape. This Sentinel Landscapes Initiative can be defined as preserving the working and rural character of our private lands, which is important for both national defense and conservation priorities. Camp Ripley will be designated as a Federal Sentinel Landscape in June of 2016. This will be the first such designation at a National Guard facility and only the 4th designated Sentinel Landscape in the country.

The SWCD offices in Crow Wing and Morrison Counties have applied for Clean Water Funds and LCCMR funds to assist landowners with forest stewardship planning, nutrient management planning, and most importantly drainage management. The counties utilize all resources available to enhance the easement properties. Our additional partners and efforts include USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), MN Forest Resource Council, local water planning, county planning and zoning offices, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (FBAP) with BWSR, DNR, PF, NRCS, MASWCD, and SWCDs as primary partners, provides funding to SWCDs to utilize technicians to promote the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other conservation program opportunities to private landowners. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) via LCCMR recommendations provided \$1.0M in FY10-11, \$625,000 in FY12-13, \$3.0M in FY 14-15 and \$1.0M in FY 16-17.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2007 - Present	Department of Defense (DOD)/National Guard Bureau (NGB)	\$24,882,881
2010 - Present	LCCMR	\$160,000

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

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

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

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

This appropriation is funding a program that will have a parcel list identified at a later time. Roads or trails are typically excluded from the easement area if they serve no beneficial purpose to easement maintenance, monitoring, or enforcement. This question is being answered with utmost flexibility in absence of a LSOHC definition of trails and specified trail types (permanent or temporary, beneficial for maintenance, animal trails, etc.).

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Will new trails or roads be developed as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new trails to be developed, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). This question is being answered with utmost flexibility in absence of a LSOHC definition of trails and specified trail types (permanent or temporary, beneficial for maintenance, animal trails, etc.).

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Obtain applications from eligible landowners	June 30, 2018
Allocations to specific parcels	July 30, 2018
Easements recorded	June 30, 2020
Final report submitted	November 1, 2020

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$3,000,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$146,000	\$0		\$146,000
Contracts	\$44,000	\$0		\$44,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$2,528,400	\$0		\$2,528,400
Easement Stewardship	\$143,000	\$0		\$143,000
Travel	\$5,200	\$0		\$5,200
Professional Services	\$112,500	\$0		\$112,500
Direct Support Services	\$11,100	\$0		\$11,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	\$0		\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$2,300	\$0		\$2,300
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$3,000,000	\$0		\$3,000,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.25	3.50	\$87,500	\$0		\$87,500
Easement Processing	0.30	3.00	\$58,500	\$0		\$58,500
Total	0.55	6.50	\$146,000	\$0		\$146,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	BWSR	\$146,000	\$0		\$146,000
Contracts	BWSR	\$44,000	\$0		\$44,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	BWSR	\$2,528,400	\$0		\$2,528,400
Easement Stewardship	BWSR	\$143,000	\$0		\$143,000
Travel	BWSR	\$5,200	\$0		\$5,200
Professional Services	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	BWSR	\$11,100	\$0		\$11,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	BWSR	\$7,500	\$0		\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	BWSR	\$2,300	\$0		\$2,300
DNR IDP	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$2,887,500	\$0		\$2,887,500

Personnel - BWSR

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.25	3.50	\$87,500	\$0		\$87,500
Easement Processing	0.30	3.00	\$58,500	\$0		\$58,500
Total	0.55	6.50	\$146,000	\$0		\$146,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0		\$0

Easement Acquisition	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	Morrison SWCD	\$112,500	\$0	\$112,500
Direct Support Services	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	Morrison SWCD	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total		\$112,500	\$0	\$112,500

Amount of Request: \$3,000,000
Amount of Leverage: \$0
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%
DSS + Personnel: \$157,100
As a % of the total request: 5.24%
Easement Stewardship: \$143,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 5.66%

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

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

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

R/E is not included with this project.

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No

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

The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

There is no direct leverage for this project. This project would contribute to the goals of the Sentinel Landscape initiative. However, to date the Federal government has contributed \$24,882,881 to other protection projects within the Sentinel Landscape project area.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally for the most part. Program management costs would be the exception, due to program development & oversight remaining somewhat consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

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	132	0	1,188	0	1,320
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	132	0	1,188	0	1,320

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	\$300,000	\$0	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$300,000	\$0	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$3,000,000

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	660	0	0	660	1,320
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	660	0	0	660	1,320

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	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000

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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$2,273	\$0	\$2,273	\$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	\$2,273	\$0	\$0	\$2,273
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

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I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Parcels are targeted that have quality existing habitat, protect corridors and large habitat complexes and reduce future fragmentation. Evaluation criteria include ecological and habitat factors for resident and migratory wildlife species. The target area has been limited to ensure a concentration of easement acquisitions that provide landscape scale benefits.

Camp Ripley ranks the parcels with their formula, but LSOHC dollars target forested parcels, riparian (Crow Wing, Mississippi or tributaries to either) lands, and/or lands surrounding the proposed Gull River WMA and the continued work of the Nokasippi WMA Buffer.

In addition, the expanded 5 mile radius will capture large land forested parcels throughout the ACUB zone to prevent the conversion of forests to non-forest uses.

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

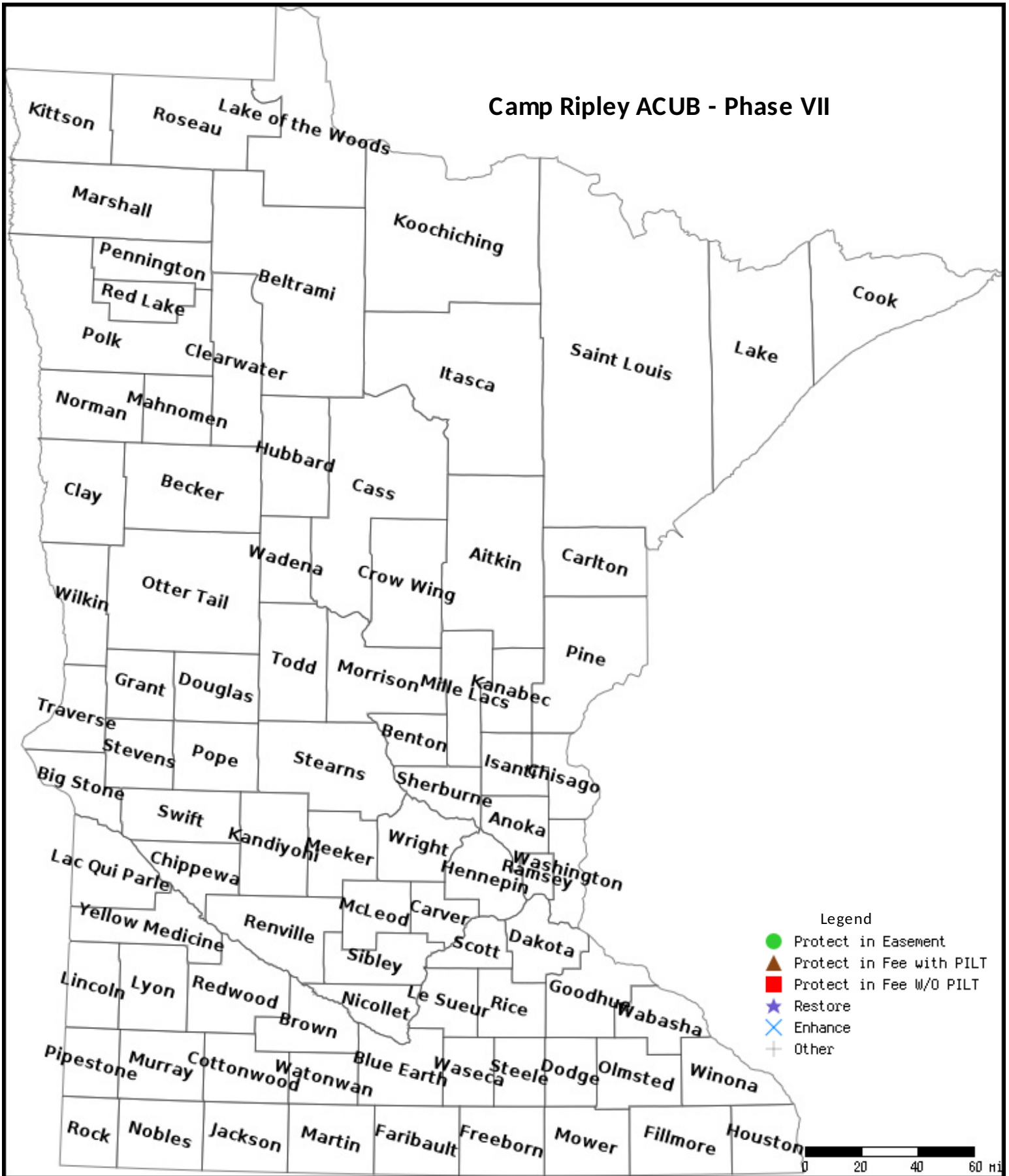
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Camp Ripley ACUB - Phase VII



Data Generated From Parcel List



Camp Ripley ACUB Phase 7

Where Missions Meet



May 2016

Phase 7 Request

- \$3,000,000 request
- Protects 1,320 acres of habitat within 5 mile radius of Camp Ripley
- Habitat-focused RIM Easements that restrict development
- Permanently protects resources while private ownership continues
- Target area includes Crow Wing, Gull, Nokasippi, and Mississippi River corridors
- Parcels are targeted that have
 - quality existing habitat
 - protect corridors and large habitat complexes
 - reduce future fragmentation



ACUB allows for protection of large forested parcels that are in imminent threat of conversion to cropland.

A Piece of the Sentinel Landscape Mosaic

- In 2015, Camp Ripley, through State law, was designated as the first state Sentinel Landscape in the nation
- In June of 2016, Camp Ripley will be designated as a national Sentinel Landscape, only the fourth so far
- Coordinates all Federal, State, and local efforts to protect this area in a broader 10 mile radius (previously 3 miles)
- LSOHC ACUB appropriations have historically focused on a 3 mile radius, Phase 7 now expanded to 5 miles
 - better reflects Sentinel Landscape target area expansion
 - extends habitat along existing river corridors
 - protects native plant communities identified via MN Biological Survey



Minnesota's largest red-shouldered hawk concentration occurs in the Camp Ripley area. Photo credit: Audubon.org.

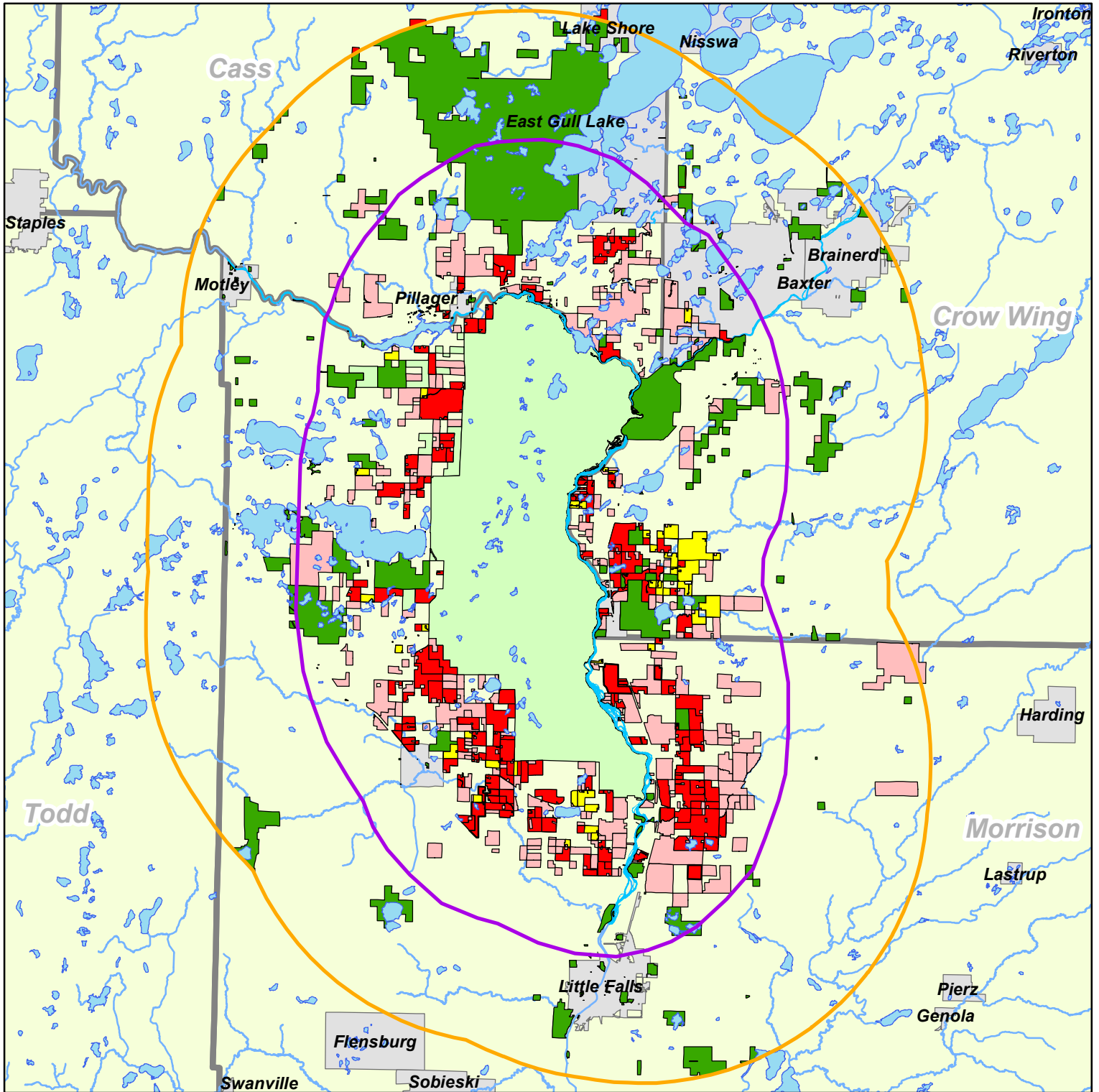


Targeted LSOHC Sections and Counties

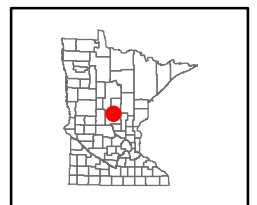
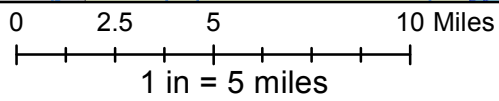


This proposal targets 1,320 acres of habitat along the Crow Wing, Gull, Nokasippi, and Mississippi River Corridors. Parcels are targeted that have quality existing habitat, protect corridors and complexes, and reduce future fragmentation

Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB)



- Protected Lands DOD Funded ACUB
- Protected Lands LSOHC Funded ACUB
- Protected Compatible Lands (State/County/TNC)
- Camp Ripley Lands (State Game Refuge)
- Interested Landowner Parcels
- 10-Mile Sentinel Landscape Priority Area
- 5-Mile LSOHC Camp Ripley ACUB Priority Area
- Municipality



Maps are for graphical purposes only. They do not represent a legal survey.

Minnesota Army National Guard – Camp Ripley, Minnesota

Meeting the Army's Triple Bottom Line:

Mission



Environment



Community



Camp Ripley is an amazing 53,000 acre facility that has prepared our Soldiers for the battle for decades. In addition, Camp Ripley is the largest state game refuge in Minnesota. It is one of the most culturally and ecologically rich environments in the Midwest bordered by 18 miles of the most pristine shoreline along the Mississippi River.

Challenges

Encroachment is any external factor that inhibits military readiness, including but not limited to the growing competition for land, airspace, waterfront access, and frequency spectrum. Incompatible land uses can impact critical, at-risk military mission capabilities at different scales over time.

- Lights from residential and commercial development reduce the effectiveness of night-vision training;
- Complaints about the noise, dust and smoke generated by military activities not only impacts community relations but also results in restrictions on the timing, frequency, and type of training activities;
- Communication towers, wind turbines, highways, and energy transmission lines near or through training areas all hinder realistic training and testing; and
- Land development that destroys or fragments endangered species habitat pushes those species onto less developed military lands, resulting in increased restrictions on training and testing land.

These issues are important because our Nation's readiness depends on ensuring our installations and ranges provide realistic training and effective weapon systems testing. Costly workarounds and restricted or unrealistic testing and training will compromise the readiness of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines for their combat missions. In order for military installations to remain active and contributing economic participants in their communities, the installations must have the space necessary to successfully accomplish their missions.



Aerial view of the Mississippi River adjacent to Camp Ripley

Solutions

To help preserve the integrity of our country's military training and readiness programs, Congress authorized the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) to develop partnerships with state and nonprofit conservation organizations to address encroachment. These win-win partnerships share the cost of acquisition of easements or other interests in land from willing sellers to preserve compatible land uses and natural habitats near installations and ranges. In turn, these land transactions help sustain critical, at-risk military mission capabilities. The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program also supports large landscape partnerships that advance cross-boundary solutions and link military readiness, conservation, and communities with federal, state and NGO partners through a common, collaborative framework.

Where We've Been

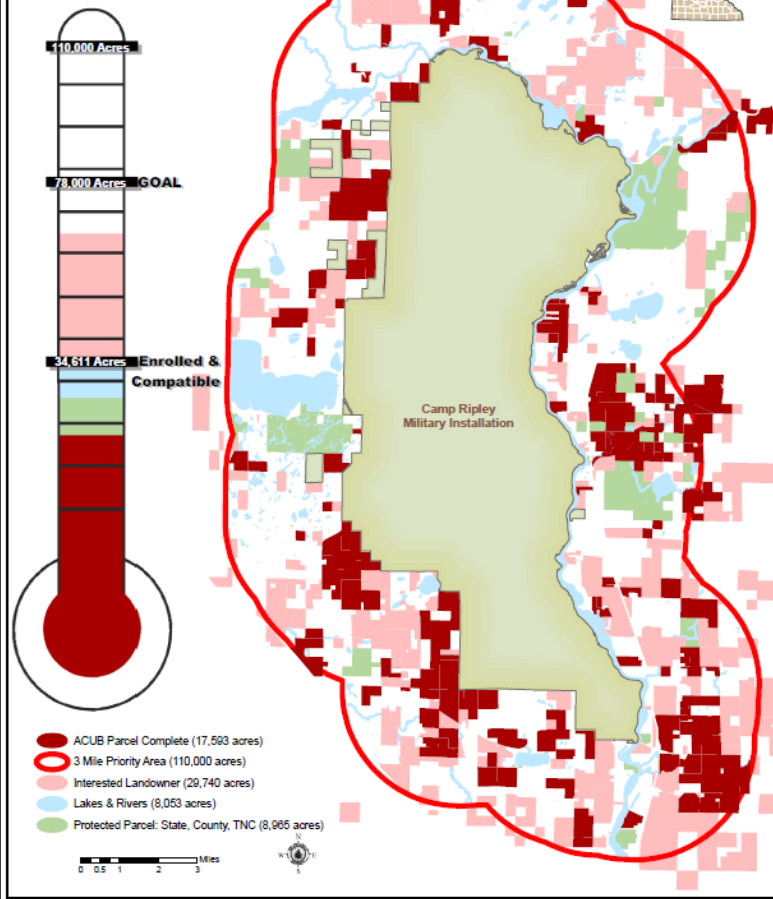
In 2004 and under the REPI program, Camp Ripley established its Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program, known locally as “*Central Minnesota Prairie to Pines Partnership...preserving our heritage*”. The purpose was to create and enhance a natural buffer around Camp Ripley by taking advantage of available opportunities to prevent encroachment and enhance conservation and land management. This partnership has enabled Camp Ripley to help the community maintain its rural character and provide critically important, high quality military training and operations to ensure combat readiness, as well as mitigate community development encroachment around the installation.

The local citizenry has always been very supportive of Camp Ripley and proud of the role that Camp Ripley serves in preparing our Soldiers for the battlefield. Their support is obvious from the number of landowners that have come forward voluntarily and without solicitation. The program is currently being funded primarily with OSD and National Guard Bureau funds (\$26MIL) along with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funds (\$5MIL). The ACUB program has completed 159 land transactions representing over 17,000 acres (red), as shown in the image on the right. Currently there are 260 landowners interested in participating in the program representing 29,740 acres as shown in pink.

“With over 17,000 acres currently in Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve (RIM) easements, our partnership is having a major impact in not only protecting the military mission, but our mission to improve and protect soil and water resources in central Minnesota.” John Jaschke, Executive Director Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Camp Ripley ACUB Program

Approved: May 2004
Status: October 2015



Camp Ripley ACUB program “Thermometer”

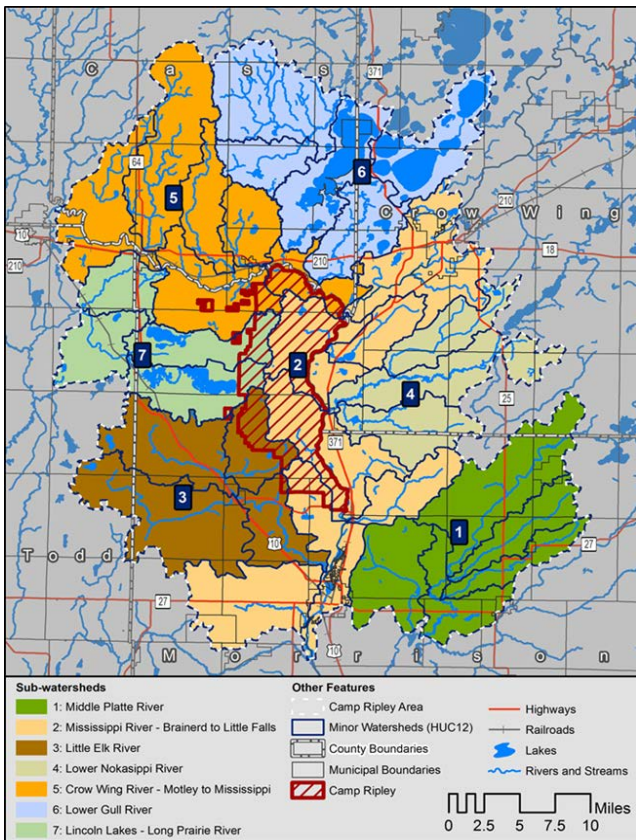
“For more than 30 years the Department of Natural Resources has worked in partnership with the Minnesota National Guard. Together, we have successfully blended natural resource conservation and restoration with high quality military training. With the addition of the Sentinel Landscape Program, our partnership has grown. The DNR is enthusiastic and committed to helping create a buffer around Camp Ripley that serves both a military mission and protects significant natural areas.”

- Tom Landwehr, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Where We Are Going

Camp Ripley is also working with other partners as part of a Sentinel Landscape program through the OSD. The Sentinel Landscape program is intended to augment the ACUB program by supporting working lands while promoting and protecting conservation practices and protecting the military mission. Hence... "Where Missions Meet". In 2015, Camp Ripley, through state law, was designated as the first state sentinel landscape in the Nation. The designation established a state coordinating committee in March 2016. The group is comprised of State Commissioners from BWSR, DNR, Minnesota Department of Military Affairs, and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MNDA). It has also attracted other Federal agencies such as the NRCS, USFS, and USFWS who envision enhancing their program priorities and interests that are complementary to the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL).

The CRSL planning area is defined by approximately 34 minor watersheds grouped in 7 sub-watersheds within an approximate 10 mile radius from Camp Ripley. The total planning area encompasses 719,463 acres including 53,000 acres of Camp Ripley. This planning process is an outgrowth of Camp Ripley's ACUB Program to limit future incompatible land uses around Camp Ripley. To achieve the program goals, all of the organizations involved have set specific goals for the CRSL which is to protect Camp Ripley's military training mission, DNR's wildlife management areas, BWSR watersheds, and MNDA agriculture and that all the parties involved will be trying to focus their resources within an approx. 10 mile buffer of Camp Ripley. The professionals working on the ACUB program recognized that multiple natural resource benefits will be achieved through the buffer program and future benefits could be achieved by expanding conservation efforts, particularly sustainable forestry and agriculture management. To leverage and expand on the conservation work being implemented as part of the ACUB program as well as efforts on partner lands, the area for the CRSL was expanded from 3 miles to approximately a 10 mile boundary around Camp Ripley.



Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape

What Makes This Landscape Important?

The CRSL is a diverse landscape. It was chosen because it sits at a convergence of several high quality water features, including 40 miles of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River and four major tributaries to the river; two major continental ecological transition zones and thousands of acres of public and private conservation lands that can potentially be connected in conservation corridors. This landscape is also one of Minnesota's most important source water protection areas for drinking water. This convergence provides an excellent opportunity to protect, maintain, and restore natural and cultural resources in the CRSL. Providing multiple benefits for military, ecological, social, and economic interests, will be achieved through coordinated conservation efforts. Watersheds are not confined to political boundaries, hence, collaborative efforts across this landscape are critical to protect, maintain, and restore agriculture and forested lands resulting in cleaner water, less erosion, fish and wildlife habitat and more recreational opportunities.

Partners

The 14 partner agencies and organizations involved in the CRSL Committee are committed to using a wide array of federal and state tools and programs, which are already being used to achieve goals. The CRSL will include approximately 700,000 acres that both capture the off-post military operation use areas and partner programmatic priorities in order to leverage protection of the military mission and land conservation. The CRSL will develop strategies to implement NRCS, USFS, and USFWS programs with their associated state agency programs representing the full suite of tools from education and outreach to fee acquisition. (See Implementation Tool Box).

Educate

Improve and Manage

Acquire

#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
General Advice & Assistance	Specific Advice & Assistance	Grants / Cost-share Projects	Land Use Controls	Incentive Programs to Enroll Land	Donated, Land & Easements	Purchased Easements	Fee Title Acquisition
Factsheets	Site Visits	Clean Water	Stormwater	SFIA	NGOs	LSOHC	LSOHC
Poster / Mailers	Forest	Fund	Buffers	CRP	Public	ACUB	ACUB
Workshops	Stewardship	EQIP	BMPs	Coops	Agencies	RIM	Public
Website / Social Media	Plans	CSP	County	Forest Banks		FFF	Agencies
	Project Plans		Water Plan	CREP III		NGOs	
			County			ACEP	
			Zoning			HFRP	



The Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands significant to the Nation's defense mission. Our efforts here are an important partnership opportunity to preserve the working lands through partner engagement while addressing the existence of farms, ranches, and forests viability through conservation of habitat and natural resources. The efforts here among the Federal, state, local and private agencies, organizations and associations is a positive win-win for the American people and our great state of Minnesota. Cathee Pullman MN State Conservationist, NRCS

Partners Engaged in the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Committee:

- Minnesota Department of Military Affairs
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Minnesota Forest Resources Council
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
- Morrison County
- Crow Wing County
- Cass County
- City of Baxter
- Mississippi Headwaters Board

