

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2018 / ML 2017 Request for Funding



Date: June 16, 2016

Program or Project Title: Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Aquisition - Phase II (PA09)

Funds Requested: \$2,478,900

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke

Title: Gambling Manager

Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.

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County Locations: Martin

Regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Restore
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Abstract:

Approximately 332 acres of prairie/wetland complex will be protected and restored. Local ecotype native plant materials will be utilized for restoration of wetland, mesic and dry habitats to the extent possible. Habitat diversity will be achieved by filling each niche on the landscape with many species of local source plants suited to the site, that will bloom throughout the growing season and provide food and cover for the wide range of organisms that will utilize the project areas.

Design and scope of work:

Project sites were targeted by the habitat need and land availability in areas adjacent to existing WMAs, existing habitat and lands already protected from development or other land use change. Work is designed to provide the most habitat value by installing the type of habitat the landscape can maintain over time. Restoration of diverse prairie/wetland complexes will help to minimize maintenance needs in the future and resist invasion by non-native plant species. Prairie wetlands and uplands will be restored to match pre-settlement conditions to the extent possible, resulting in a landscape that looks naturally and functions in a way to improve water quality end ecosystem health.

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

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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

Project partners continue to work with the DNR to acquire parcels that fit within the framework of the WMA Acquisition plan. The areas selected for restoration and the habitat diversity being established are targeted at providing the habitat needs of many species of waterfowl.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

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

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:

Expanding existing habitat clusters and corridors has already demonstrated the dramatic change in species diversity and numbers of each species utilizing recently restored habitat on the fringes of existing habitat areas. Further improvement in water quality and habitat quality is being demonstrated with each parcel added on to existing habitat clusters. These expanded areas of habitat have already produced a significant permanent legacy and are providing dramatic outcomes for fish game and wildlife. New species continue to move into these expanded habitats. Bald Eagles are now nesting in riparian areas around several lakes. A pair of Trumpeter Swans were observed for the first time by science students during their annual field trip to the Caron WMA which has received LSOHC funding for habitat expansions. The LSOHC funded DNR CPL Grants have also been key to providing a permanent conservation legacy in Martin County.

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:

Our Martin County Conservation Planning group includes wildlife group representatives, local government, and state agencies. There is a wide range of knowledge and interest within the group. Historic information, the MN County Biological Survey and local knowledge help identify areas where habitat restoration will likely be most beneficial for multiple reasons. Expanding habitat adjacent to existing high quality native habitat and habitat already protected by public ownership or perpetual conservation easement are often targeted. Sites with threatened, endangered and species in decline are good targets to build upon, especially when expansions can link sites to help to expand corridors, especially along water courses and lake chains.

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:

Utilizing plant species that are rare, threatened, endangered and appear to be in decline are targeted for incorporation into the landscape wherever they will be expected to thrive. Small white lady slipper is being propagated using local source seed. This species, Tuberous Indian plantain, Sullivant's Milkweed, Eared False foxglove and many other species that are not commonly included in habitat restorations will add diversity to these project sites.

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

With the highly diverse habitat expected to develop on these parcels, we expect to produce up to 50+ harvestable pheasant roosters per year. With the incorporation of at least 5 species of milkweeds we expect to produce 500 to 1,500 Monarch butterflies per year. Approximately 100 pairs of grasshopper sparrows and 75 pairs of Bobolinks could potentially be found on this restored prairie. With Trumpeter Swans starting to pair up in Martin County, the amount of wetland restored under this project should result in one additional pair of swans. Approximately 70 new pairs of Mallards should find a home in the restored wetlands and prairie upland.

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *Acquiring, restoring and enhancing the listed priority project areas will further buffer small lakes and wetlands. Improved water quality leading to increased habitat quality and added wildlife benefits will result from acquisition of the Proposed parcels. Diverse habitat will be restored, ranging from dry sandy prairie, to mesic, wet and wetland plant communities. Outcomes will be measured in the resulting habitat diversity that becomes established, the number of species and the number of each species that will be found on the protected and restored parcels. New access to outdoor recreation will be created for hundreds of people.*

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

Project partners will assist the MN DNR to get the conservation cover established and help with weed control and invasive species removal. Once conservation cover is established, The Area DNR Wildlife Manager will be responsible for providing the ongoing maintenance to maintain the native habitat and hydrology installed and established under this project. Local organizations will be here in years to come to lend a hand.

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

Not Listed

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

When marginal land in the right location is available, it needs to be acquired immediately or it may be another lifetime or two before it may be available again, if ever. This part of the state is so short on public land that the existing WMAs have been reported to receive 200 to 350 visits per year. If you want to experience solitude, visit a Martin County WMA in late December or right after the close of hunting season. You have to look very hard to find any kind of life that has survived the pressure.

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

This proposal adds habitat adjacent to other OHF projects that have been funded by project partners in Martin County where local match has been provided.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The priorities addressed in this project are also priorities identified by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Taking marginal land out of production, storing water and planting deep rooted native vegetation to promote infiltration are effective in improving water quality and managing water quantity within local watersheds. Restoring high quality native habitat helps protect and restore both ground and surface water.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2014	ENRTF	\$425,000

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **Yes**

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

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)**

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 - **Yes**

Explain

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.

That being said, The diverse permanent habitat being restored in the wetlands and on the uplands, under this proposal, will include a broad range of food producing plants to help minimize the need for annually planted food plots and over time hopefully eliminate that need.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

None

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

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

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Update appraisals or order new and negotiate selling price	November 30, 2017
Close on properties	December 31, 2017
Transfer property to the MN DNR	March 31, 2018
Complete site preparation and install local source native plant materials on cropland areas	July 1, 2018
Remove non-native perennial vegetation from problem areas	November 1, 2018
Install local ecotype native plant materials on treated areas where needed	March 31, 2019
Follow-up weed control and reseeding as needed	June 15, 2019

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$2,478,900

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Contracts	\$95,600	\$0		\$95,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,009,800	\$0		\$2,009,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Professional Services	\$160,000	\$0		\$160,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$125,000	\$0		\$125,000
DNR IDP	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Total	\$2,478,900	\$0		\$2,478,900

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Management	0.33	2.00	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Total	0.33	2.00	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000

Amount of Request: \$2,478,900

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$25,000

As a % of the total request: 1.01%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

all of the contract line is for restoration and enhancement work

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:

mileage reimbursement to members to manage this grant

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

no leverage source

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:

We have identified 6 potential round outs to existing Martin County WMA's. Based on available funding our proposal is completely scalable based on what our allocation will be. We have very low administration fees because we are mainly volunteering our time to do this as board members.

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	173	159	0	0	332
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	173	159	0	0	332

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	0

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$289,100	\$180,000	\$0	\$0	\$469,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$1,047,200	\$962,600	\$0	\$0	\$2,009,800
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	\$1,336,300	\$1,142,600	\$0	\$0	\$2,478,900

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	332	0	332
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	332	0	332

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$469,100	\$0	\$469,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,009,800	\$0	\$2,009,800
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	\$2,478,900	\$0	\$2,478,900

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	\$6,053	\$6,054	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,054	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3

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:

we are currently working with our Area Wildlife Management Manager, Randy Markl to look at Round Outs for existing WMA's and as lands become available on the local level we try to determine the best properties to purchase that are available for sale. A Martin County planning group has been established to prioritize areas where additional acquisitions will be most efficient and provide the type of habitat that is most needed. The group has identified core habitat areas, habitat corridors and has discussed criteria for prioritizing parcels for acquisitions. The listed parcels are located adjacent to or near existing WMAs and/or existing wildlife habitat in areas that have been identified as priority areas.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
David Crissinger 80	10332228	80	\$0	No	Full	Not Applicable
James Dick 40	10332228	40	\$0	No	Full	Not Applicable
Reed	10332221	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Schultz	10332215	17	\$0	No	Full	Full
Strierner Parcel	10231233	25	\$0	No	Full	Not Applicable
Tenhassen Farms	10131204	130	\$0	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

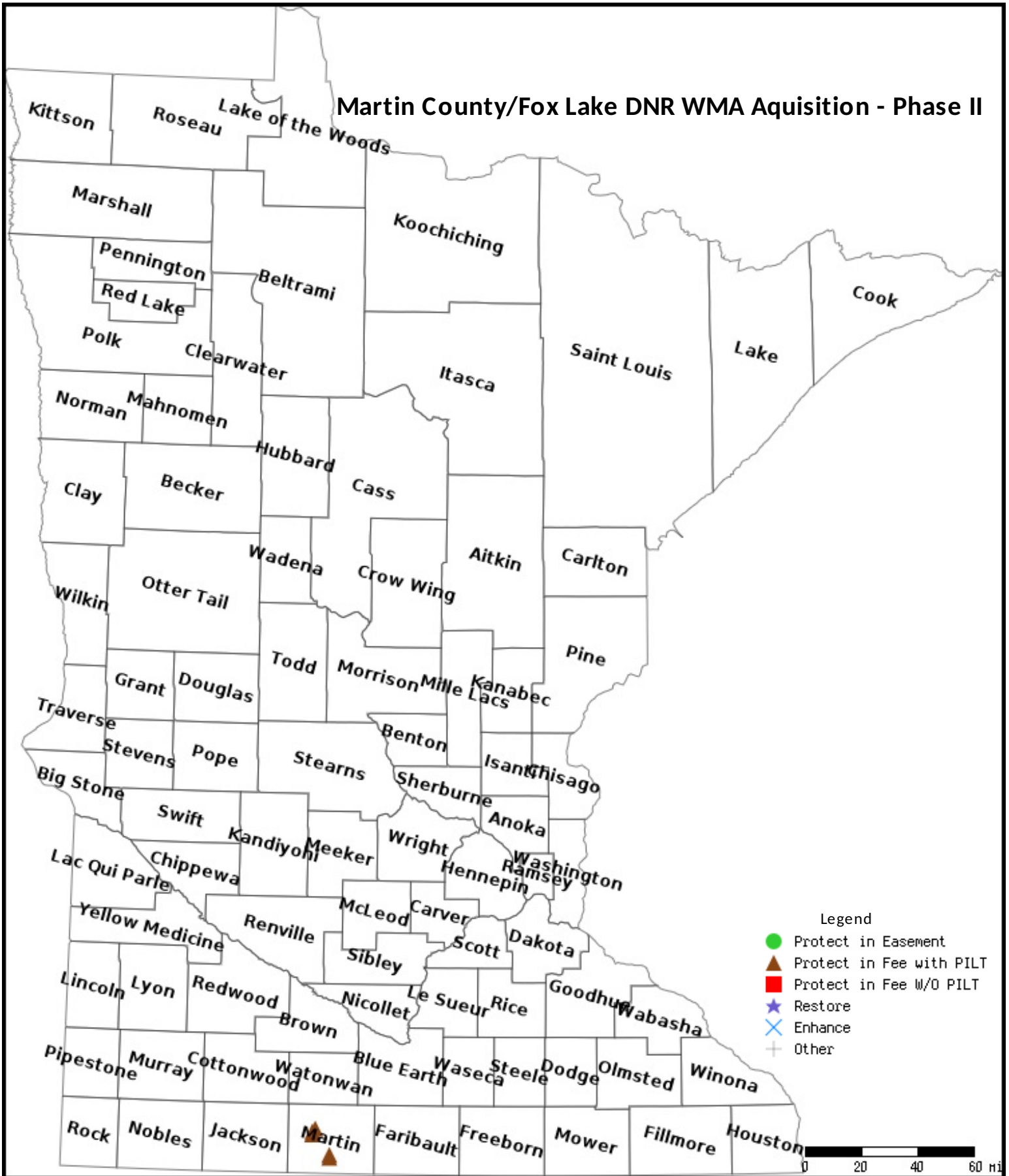
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Aquisition - Phase II



Data Generated From Parcel List



Butterfly Milkweed



Prairie Phlox



Northern bedstraw



Veiny Pea



Cream Indigo



Sunflowers replacing Reed canary grass in the low ground



Burreed, Sweetflag and Sedge seed



Dustin seeding Porcupine grass on the hill top

Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition Phase #2

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritiag Council

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Above: Martin County Conservation Planning Meeting

Below: Wet marginal cropland on the Jim Dick parcel

