

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan



**Date:** October 26, 2017

**Program or Project Title:** Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 6

**Funds Recommended:** \$ 2,142,000

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**Legislative Citation:** ML 2018, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd XX

**Appropriation Language:**

**County Locations:** Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona.

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

- Southeast Forest

**Activity types:**

- Enhance
- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie

### Abstract:

This project will permanently protect critical habitat using conservation easements and fee land acquisition on approximately 590 acres and restore and enhance approximately 116 acres of declining habitat for species of greatest conservation need in strategically targeted public land assets of biodiversity significance in the Blufflands resulting in increased public access and improved habitat.

### Design and scope of work:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in partnership will use Outdoor Heritage Funds to invest in habitat protection and restoration within the Blufflands of Southeast Minnesota to expand and connect larger contiguous blocks of protected lands allowing land managers to restore, enhance and maintain high quality habitats at a scale difficult to accomplish with a fragmented ownership. Benefits of this program include the increased effectiveness of frequent prescribed fire necessary to reclaim "goat prairies", oak savanna and regenerate oak hardwood forests at a larger scale. Protecting and managing these lands is not only important for ecological reasons, but also benefits public use and enjoyment of these lands and the resources they

provide. This proposal will enhance prior conservation investments and ensure that the legacy of the Blufflands is preserved in a high quality condition for future generations.

There are 86 different native plant community types mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), covering nearly 149,670 acres within the project area. There are 183 species of state listed rare plants and animals, many of which are concentrated on 749 sites of biodiversity significance. This program has a proven track record of protecting, restoring and enhancing lands that meet both state and local priorities for biodiversity, land access and watershed health.

In addition, despite the area's high demand for outdoor recreation and having more species of greatest conservation need than anywhere else in the state, only 5% of the region is open to the public.

#### Conservation Easements:

MLT will acquire approximately 340 acres of conservation easements and develop restoration and habitat management plans for eased acres. MLT will identify potential projects within targeted priority areas through an RFP process coupled with local outreach via SWCD offices. This competitive landowner bid process will rank projects based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state.

#### Fee Acquisition:

TNC and TPL will coordinate with MN DNR on all potential fee-title acquisitions. TNC and TPL will assist the participating DNR Divisions by conducting all or some of the following activities: initial site reviews, negotiations with the willing seller, appraisals, environmental reviews and acquisition of fee title. TNC and TPL will transfer lands to the DNR except when TNC ownership is appropriate. If TNC retains lands property taxes will be paid. Fee acquisition of approximately 250 acres of forest and prairie along 1 mile of coldwater trout stream is planned.

#### Restoration and Enhancement:

The Nature Conservancy will restore/enhance approximately 78 acres of bluff prairie, floodplain, riparian habitat and forest. Minnesota Land Trust will restore 38 acres of habitat.

Ecological restoration enhancement management plans will be developed in coordination with the appropriate DNR staff, landowners and/or hired subcontractors.

#### Results to date:

Conservation Easements: 1,696 acres

Fee Land Acquisition: 2,661 acres

13 mile of stream

Restoration and Enhancement: 783

### **How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:**

The Blufflands of Southeast Minnesota have more species of greatest conservation need than any other ecological subsection in Minnesota. 70% of the acres completed are within the Wildlife Action Network and most are medium to high priority. Acquisition projects have protected habitat necessary for 39 documented occurrences of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Projects in this proposal will continue to support SGCN and targeted species by working within complexes identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey. Projects include a mix of mesic hardwood forests, large fire dependent communities including oak/hickory woodlands, oak forests, savannas and bluff and ridgetop prairies. These complexes and the coldwater streams they support are habitat for a variety of SGCN including the state listed timber rattlesnake, grassland nesting birds, neotropical migrants and bats. The program has protected over 13 miles of coldwater trout stream including 10% of a watershed and it's associated habitat for native heritage brook trout and American brook lamprey.

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

This program is focused on Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) identified based on their biodiversity significance as mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey, Wildlife Action Plan and proximity to existing public and conservation lands. These COAs are developed and reviewed periodically by resource professionals representing non-game, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and watershed expertise. Project area viability is based on habitat complex connectivity and potential for restoring and enhancing new and historic conservation lands that otherwise would have diminishing habitat value for rare and non-game species. In addition to habitat fragmentation and lack of disturbance, the program area's cold water trout streams are threatened by sedimentation and high runoff. This program protects and restores trout habitat by protecting forests and grasslands within stream valleys, enhancing their condition and restoring riparian and floodplain corridors along trout streams. This reduces storm event runoff to streams and prevents sedimentation of trout habitat.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Southeast Forest:

- Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Describe the relationship of the funds:

TNC and TPL are leveraging 50% of direct support services expenses.  
Minnesota Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements as part of its landowner bid protocol. The leverage portion of the easement acquisition line item is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated to the Land Trust.

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

MLT:  
Minnesota Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements as part of its landowner bid protocol. An estimated leverage of \$93,600 of donated value from landowners from easement acquisition is a conservative estimate. Minnesota Land Trust is also leveraging USFWS funds for restoration and enhancement on easement lands.  
TNC and TPL use private funds to pay half of the direct shared services expenses.

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

This project is new and does not substitute or supplant previous funding. The work described in this accomplishment plan would not be funded or completed without this appropriation.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2013	The Nature Conservancy	\$67,661
2014	The Nature Conservancy	\$2,173,459
2015	The Nature Conservancy	\$10,769
2016	The Trust for Public Land	\$250,000

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

Acquisition projects will be adjacent or within close proximity to existing protected lands, including state-owned lands and lands under

conservation easement. Allowing for the expansion of maintenance and restoration activities that are currently taking place on those protected lands and adjacent private lands. Habitats cleared of invasive species will be maintained with prescribed fire and other practices. Protection and restoration projects will improve future prescribed fire and maintenance activities through economies of scale. The tracts protected and enhanced as part of this proposal also meet the prioritization for Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan. MN DNR has been successful in securing federal habitat enhancement funding. Tracts acquired will be transferred to the state for ongoing management unless when TNC ownership is appropriate. MLT - The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the state-of-the art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful easement stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring and defending the easements as necessary. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans and works with them to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Every 4-6 years	US Fish and Wildlife Service	prescribed fire		
Every 4-6 years	DNR Game and Fish Fund	Prescribed fire		
2021 and perpetually	MLT Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring in perpetuity		

## 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

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 could 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, however neonicotinoids will not be used.

MLT - The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

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

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

Local governments are notified of each proposed land acquisition that will be transferred to the state and program staff are available to discuss projects with local government staff and/or elected officials.

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

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

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

NA

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

MN Department of Natural Resources except when The Nature Conservancy decides to retain ownership.

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

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

Who will manage the easement?

Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust

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, SNA, AMA, County/Municipal, State Forests)

### Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Purchase agreements or options on acquisition of fee land	June 30, 2021
Purchase agreements or options on conservation easements	June 30, 2021
Acquisition of fee land	June 30, 2022
Floodplain and stream corridor restoration and enhancement	June 30, 2023
Bluff prairie and oak savanna enhancement	June 30, 2023
Easement acquisition	June 30, 2022

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2023

### Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **No**

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds - **June 30, 2018**

### Outcomes:

#### Programs in southeast forest region:

- Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected We will track the acres of priority parcels protected within the Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) identified in regional planning. Success within each COA will be determined based on the percentage of area protected, restored and/or enhanced.

# Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

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

Reduced acreage of fee acquisition, conservation easement and restoration and enhancement. No restoration and enhancement on easement lands due to reduced appropriation.

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 2142000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$246,000	\$0		\$246,000
Contracts	\$190,500	\$3,000	USFWS	\$193,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,022,000	\$0		\$1,022,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$315,000	\$93,600	Landowner	\$408,600
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Travel	\$11,000	\$0		\$11,000
Professional Services	\$121,000	\$0		\$121,000
Direct Support Services	\$60,500	\$40,000	Private, Private	\$100,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$16,000	\$0		\$16,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$8,000	\$0		\$8,000
DNR IDP	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Total	\$2,142,000	\$136,600		\$2,278,600

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Project Manager	0.25	3.00	\$75,000	\$0		\$75,000
TNC Protection Staff	0.10	3.00	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
TNC Grant Administration	0.05	3.00	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
TPL Protection and Legal Staff	0.12	3.00	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
MLT Protection Staff	0.20	3.00	\$54,000	\$0		\$54,000
MLT Restoration Staff	0.09	3.00	\$22,000	\$0		\$22,000
Total	0.81	18.00	\$246,000	\$0		\$246,000

## Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	The Nature Conservancy	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Contracts	The Nature Conservancy	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	The Nature Conservancy	\$430,000	\$0		\$430,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	The Nature Conservancy	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	The Nature Conservancy	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	The Nature Conservancy	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	The Nature Conservancy	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	The Nature Conservancy	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Direct Support Services	The Nature Conservancy	\$29,000	\$29,000	Private	\$58,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	The Nature Conservancy	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Capital Equipment	The Nature Conservancy	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	The Nature Conservancy	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	The Nature Conservancy	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
DNR IDP	The Nature Conservancy	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Total		\$742,000	\$29,000		\$771,000

## Personnel - The Nature Conservancy

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Project Manager	0.25	3.00	\$75,000	\$0		\$75,000
TNC Protection Staff	0.10	3.00	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
TNC Grant Administration	0.05	3.00	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
Total	0.40	9.00	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	The Trust for Public Land	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Contracts	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	The Trust for Public Land	\$592,000	\$0		\$592,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	The Trust for Public Land	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Professional Services	The Trust for Public Land	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Direct Support Services	The Trust for Public Land	\$11,000	\$11,000	Private	\$22,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	The Trust for Public Land	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
Capital Equipment	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	The Trust for Public Land	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Total		\$700,000	\$11,000		\$711,000

## Personnel - The Trust for Public Land

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL Protection and Legal Staff	0.12	3.00	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Total	0.12	3.00	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$76,000	\$0		\$76,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust	\$90,500	\$3,000	USFWS	\$93,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Land Trust	\$315,000	\$93,600	Landowner	\$408,600
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$8,000	\$0		\$8,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$66,000	\$0		\$66,000
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$20,500	\$0		\$20,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Land Trust	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Land Trust	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
DNR IDP	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$700,000	\$96,600		\$796,600

## Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Protection Staff	0.20	3.00	\$54,000	\$0		\$54,000
MLT Restoration Staff	0.09	3.00	\$22,000	\$0		\$22,000
Total	0.29	6.00	\$76,000	\$0		\$76,000

Amount of Request: \$2,142,000

Amount of Leverage:	\$136,600
Leverage as a percent of the Request:	6.38%
DSS + Personnel:	\$306,500
As a % of the total request:	14.31%

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

TNC: DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federally Negotiated rate as proposed and subsequently approved by the US Dept. of Interior. The proportion requested from the grant represents 50% with the other 50% contributed as leverage.

MLT: In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

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

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

Contracts are for restoration and enhancement. MLT also contracts for habitat management plan writing and with Soil and Water Conservation Districts for landowner outreach.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

Private funds. In addition MLT provides a conservative estimate (\$93,600) - under Easement Acquisition - of landowner donative value we expect to be put forward by those participating in the program. In addition, the USFWS has committed contributions totaling \$3,000 for restoration/enhancement project engineering and design.



## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	22	0	30	52
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	50	200	0	250
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	340	340
Enhance	0	39	25	0	64
Total	0	111	225	370	706

**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	31
Total	31

**Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$112,900	\$127,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$315,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,315,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$587,100	\$587,100
Enhance	\$0	\$82,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$112,000
Total	\$0	\$412,000	\$1,030,000	\$700,000	\$2,142,000

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

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	52	0	0	52
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	250	0	0	250
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	340	0	0	340
Enhance	0	0	64	0	0	64
Total	0	0	706	0	0	706

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

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$127,900	\$0	\$0	\$127,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$1,315,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,315,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$587,100	\$0	\$0	\$587,100
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$112,000	\$0	\$0	\$112,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$2,142,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,142,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$682	\$0	\$3763
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$6300	\$5000	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1727
Enhance	\$0	\$2103	\$1200	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$2460	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$5260	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$1727	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$1750	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1.5

## 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

#### Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Brightsdale Unit	10310202	26	\$20,000	Yes
Choice WMA	10208201	60	\$60,000	Yes
Peterson State Land	10408219	27	\$81,000	Yes
Peterson State Land	10408220	37	\$36,500	Yes
Root River 1	10309207	66	\$171,600	Yes
Root River 2	10309218	98	\$254,800	Yes
Rushford Drainage District	10508233	31	\$93,000	Yes
Rushford Sand Barrens 1	10408233	114	\$296,400	Yes
Rushford Sand Barrens 2	10408234	251	\$652,600	Yes
Rushford Sand Barrens 3	10408227	148	\$384,800	Yes

#### Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Houston County	10306220	33	\$97,500	Yes
Root River 3	10406204	244	\$634,400	Yes
Root River 4	10407225	11	\$28,600	Yes
Root River 5	10407221	154	\$400,400	Yes
Vinegar Ridge 1	10407228	13	\$39,000	Yes
Vinegar Ridge 2	10407234	373	\$5,000	Yes
Vinegar Ridge 3	10407227	30	\$45,000	Yes
Yucatan	10307230	50	\$150,000	Yes

#### Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
East Indian Creek	10910226	70	\$182,000	Yes

#### Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Crooked Creek	10204221	15	\$39,000	Yes
Wiscoy Valley 1	10507233	25	\$65,000	Yes
Wiscoy Valley 2	10507217	150	\$390,000	No

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

#### Dodge

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Middle Fork Zumbro	10817224	175	\$787,500	No	Full	Full

#### Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Choice WMA 3	10208203	162	\$729,000	No	Full	Full
Choice WMA North 4	10208211	300	\$1,500,000	No	Full	Full
Rushford	10408202	928	\$1,000	Yes	Full	Full

#### Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Wetbark	10306219	100	\$350,000	No	Full	Full

#### Olmsted

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Whitewater 1	10711224	40	\$160,000	No	Full	Full

#### Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Weaver	10909205	120	\$420,000	No	Full	Full

Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Whitewater	10710209	120	\$480,000	No	Full	Full

## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Wabasha

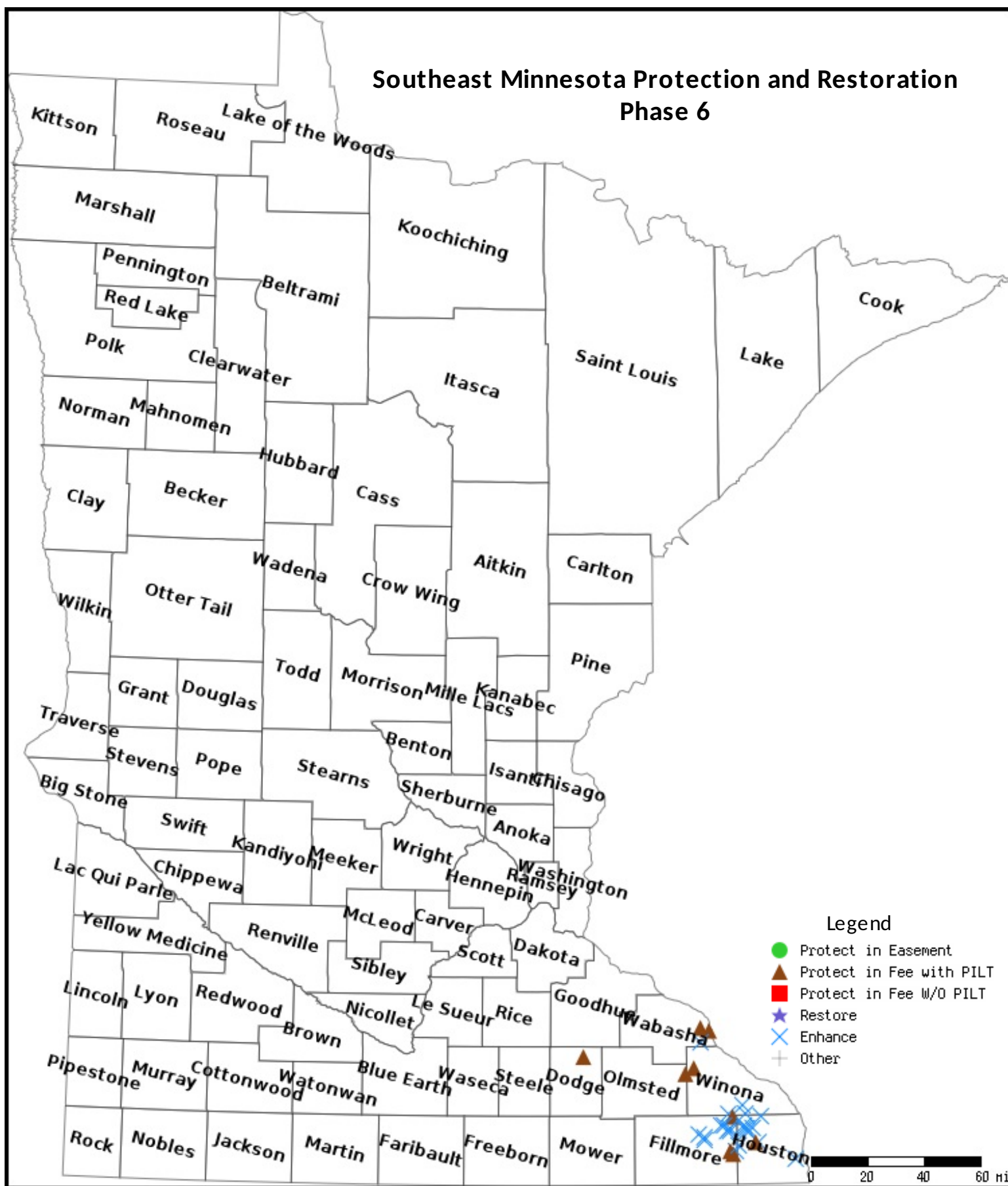
Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
McCarthy	11010235	224	\$750,000	1	outbuildings	\$0	Demolish

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

## Parcel Map

### Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 6



Data Generated From Parcel List



## The Nature Conservancy's Direct Support Service Methodology

### Background

Through the course of implementing grants awarded by the Legacy and Environmental Trust Fund (ENTRF) processes there are numerous costs which are directly related to and necessary for program implementation but which, for practical reasons, cannot be assigned to specific projects. For example, all projects involve the Payroll Department, but because of the size and complexity of the Conservancy's accounting systems it is not possible to determine how much of each payroll administrator's salary should be charged to specific projects.

To account for these and similar costs the Nature Conservancy has developed a methodology for documenting them on an annual basis. This methodology is based on actual costs of Direct Support Services from the previous year and is essentially a ratio of unassignable costs to those which are easily assigned. The ratio is annually adjusted based on real costs. Further, the methodology and costs are annually audited and accepted as our official "Indirect Cost Rate" by all federal funding agencies.

Costs included in this category are deemed internally as General and Administrative or Facilities and are represented as the sum in Column X in the table below. General and Administrative costs include: payroll and accounting, general legal services, human resources, grants administration, information systems, and executive management. Specifically excluded from this category are: Fundraising, Lobbying, Government Relations, Membership Development, and costs directly assigned to projects.

The Nature Conservancy Statement of Total Costs by Program Operating and Land Funds July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011											
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Elements of Costs	Total Costs for ICR	Conservation	Membership Development	Fundraising	Lobbying	Government Relations	Land Fund	(O)+(P)+(Q)+(R)+(S)+(T) Total Direct Costs	Indirect Costs	Facilities	Total Indirect
Salaries	188,252,493	107,171,712	1,413,799	31,063,301	1,524,236	4,866,810	0	146,039,859	42,212,634		42,212,634
Fringe Benefits	81,164,511	46,206,242	602,953	13,294,927	640,926	2,122,490	0	62,867,538	18,296,973		18,296,973
Fees and charges	123,019,361	84,092,866	2,835,357	4,901,214	3,852,422	541,458	16,114,142	112,337,459	7,057,317	3,624,585	10,681,902
Supplies and communications	33,510,127	14,944,395	11,552,986	2,359,259	56,972	240,693	284,768	29,439,074	4,071,053		4,071,053
Travel	18,278,067	12,304,999	40,573	2,479,549	155,797	563,214	246,294	15,790,427	2,487,640		2,487,640
Occupancy	28,963,791	7,666,782	0	501,639	2,241	40,855	9,658,196	17,869,713	0	11,094,078	11,094,078
Equipment	6,706,276	5,044,065	0	210,406	2,090	13,877	174,352	5,444,789	1,261,487		1,261,487
Unallowables	54,513,986	22,750,087	743,309	1,941,114	576,903	74,275	20,814,167	46,899,855	7,614,130		7,614,130
Exclusions	332,331,508	146,925	0	15,753	0	500	332,163,871	332,327,049	4,459		4,459
<b>Total Costs for ICR calculation</b>	<b>866,740,119</b>	<b>300,328,073</b>	<b>17,188,978</b>	<b>56,767,161</b>	<b>6,811,589</b>	<b>8,464,173</b>	<b>379,455,790</b>	<b>769,015,763</b>	<b>83,005,693</b>	<b>14,718,663</b>	<b>97,724,356</b>

	Expenditures before Exclusions	Exclusions	Indirect unallowable charges	Fringe Benefits charges in non-benefit centers	Expenditures after Exclusions				G&A	Facilities	Total
Reconciliation:											
Direct Base	769,015,763	-332,327,049	0	642,754	437,331,468		Indirect Cost Pool		75,387,104	14,718,663	90,105,767
Indirect Cost Pool	97,724,356	-4,459	-7,614,130	0	90,105,767		Direct Base		437,331,468	437,331,468	437,331,468
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>866,740,119</b>	<b>-332,331,508</b>	<b>-7,614,130</b>	<b>642,754</b>	<b>527,437,235</b>		<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>		<b>17.24%</b>	<b>3.37%</b>	<b>20.60%</b>

### Methodology and Implementation

The Conservancy uses the methodology and subsequent ratios that have been developed for our Federal approved and audited rate as the basis for calculating Direct Support Services for Legacy and ENTRF projects and programs. A budget amount will be determined as part of the allocation process with the governing body and reflected on each Accomplishment Plan or Work Program as a specific line-item. Direct Support Service reimbursement requests will not be applied to categories that unnecessarily inflate the overall rate. Excluded line items include Land and Easement Acquisition, Capital Equipment purchases over \$50,000 and DNR IDP and Land Acquisition Costs. For this project, TNC requests reimbursement of 50% of eligible DSS costs with the remaining 50% to be contributed as leverage by TNC.







# Southeastern Minnesota Blufflands Program

## -Minnesota Land Trust Easement Criteria-

The Southeastern Minnesota Blufflands program protects, restores, and enhances Minnesota's rich and diverse array of wildlife habitat within the Blufflands ecological subsection. Funded through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) employs perpetual conservation easements in collaboration with private landowners to protect important wildlife habitat (forest, wetlands, and grasslands) and their associated wildlife.

Through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, landowners will submit an application to the Land Trust for protection of their land via conservation easement. At the close of the open submission period, submitted projects are initially scored and ranked relative to one another on two primary factors: 1) ecological significance, and 2) cost.

**Ecological Significance** is determined through an analysis of three subfactors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species;
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species;
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected.

**Cost** is determined in large part by the bid amount proposed by the landowner, and ultimately substantiated through an appraisal process. Landowners are given additional credit through whole or partial donation of appraised easement value.

These two factors inform an initial score that is used to initially rank a proposed parcel relative to others. Subsequent discussions with each landowner participating in the program allow the Land Trust to gain a better sense of the landowner's desires for and expected uses of the property, and to ground-truth the parcel's ecological condition. These post-proposal evaluations may result in proposed parcels moving up or down on the prioritization list. This additional evaluation allows for the Land Trust to most effectively target priority lands for protection.

The Land Trust has set certain minimum criteria for inclusion into the program:

- Lands must be located within the Blufflands Program area.
- Lands must have a maximum of 20% of total proposed easement area in agricultural use; areas targeted for restoration are not included in this acre cap.
- Lands must contain high quality examples of native plant communities (forests, prairies, woodlands, etc.), trout streams, shoreland along rivers and streams, or rare and threatened species.
- Lands cannot be enrolled previously in permanent protection programs (e.g., RIM).

Additional requirements are stipulated within the body of each conservation easement, as pertinent to the special characteristics of the land and the particular situation of the landowner.

The Land Trust's ranking and selection system is informed by ranking and prioritization modules used by the Minnesota DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and nationally by the Natural Heritage Data Center Network. Utilizing a ranking system that prioritizes projects based upon ecological value and cost enables the Land Trust to secure conservation easements that effectively and efficiently protect Minnesota's wildlife resources.



Initial Ranking of Applications										
Existing Ecological Significance	Units Affected	Scoring framework for prioritizing conservation value among applicants through an RFP process.								
	1. Size/Abundance of Habitat Protected by Easement (Maximum 100 pts)									
	0	Total acres of native plant community or extent of target feature within proposed easement								
	0	Feet of shoreline to be protected by an easement								
	2. Diversity/Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement (Maximum 100 pts)									
	0	Average quality of existing native plant communities								
	0	Number and quality of rare species on parcel; rarity of the species								
	3. Landscape Context (Maximum 100 pts)									
	0	Location of parcel relative to biodiversity "hotspots" or priority areas delineated in conservation plans								
	0	Location of parcel relative to other conservation lands								
	0	Location of parcel relative to existing moderate-high quality native plant communities; degree of habitat fragmentation								
	Total Score (Maximum 300 pts)									
Cost	Score									
	4. Cost									
	0	Bid amount (\$)/acre								
	0	Estimated Donative value (\$)/acre								
Revised Scoring of Applications Following Discussion with Landowner										
Potential Impacts by Landowner	Score Adjustments (+/-)	Enhancement or downgrade of existing biodiversity significance scores based on easement rights retained by the landowner, easement actions required of the landowner, and their potential impact on existing biodiversity.								
	5. Size/Abundance of Habitat Protected by Easement									
	0	Total acres of native plant community or extent of target feature impacted by retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.								
	6. Diversity/Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement									
	0	Estimated potential impact on diversity/quality of native plant community or extent of target feature by retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.								
	0	Estimated potential impact on number/quality of rare species resulting from retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.								
0	REVISED BIODIVERSITY SIGNIFICANCE SCORE									



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Comparison Report

**Program Title:** 2018 - Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 6

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

**Manager:** Richard Biske

## Budget

Requested Amount: \$9,796,200

Appropriated Amount: \$2,142,000

Percentage: 21.87%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$686,700	\$0	\$246,000	\$0	35.82%	-
Contracts	\$1,871,000	\$0	\$190,500	\$3,000	10.18%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,905,000	\$0	\$1,022,000	\$0	26.17%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,920,000	\$822,800	\$315,000	\$93,600	16.41%	11.38%
Easement Stewardship	\$384,000	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	31.25%	-
Travel	\$32,000	\$0	\$11,000	\$0	34.38%	-
Professional Services	\$523,000	\$0	\$121,000	\$0	23.14%	-
Direct Support Services	\$260,500	\$184,300	\$60,500	\$40,000	23.22%	21.70%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$80,000	\$0	\$16,000	\$0	20.00%	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$9,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	22.22%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$30,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	26.67%	-
DNR IDP	\$95,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	31.58%	-
Total	\$9,796,200	\$1,007,100	\$2,142,000	\$136,600	21.87%	13.56%

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

Reduced acreage of fee acquisition, conservation easement and restoration and enhancement. No restoration and enhancement on easement lands due to reduced appropriation.

## Output

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	66	52	78.79%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	900	250	27.78%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	2,285	340	14.88%
Enhance	574	64	11.15%

**Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	813,600	127,900	15.72%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	4,830,500	1,315,000	27.22%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	2,946,000	587,100	19.93%
Enhance	1,206,100	112,000	9.29%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	66	52	78.79%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	900	250	27.78%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	2,285	340	14.88%
Enhance	574	64	11.15%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	813,600	127,900	15.72%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	4,830,500	1,315,000	27.22%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	2,946,000	587,100	19.93%
Enhance	1,206,100	112,000	9.29%